



## Major must set his sights on well-armed Swiss

One drawback to unbounded elation is that, afterwards, there is only one way to go. When John Major pranced into the House yesterday like a catwalk model, preening and swirling so we could admire the cut of his Edinburgh-tailored finery, the idea of bleaker tomorrows must have seemed preposterous. But as far as Europe goes, he may find there is little less rewarding than unclouded joy.

Major told a crowded Commons that "anyone who looks objectively at what has been agreed under the British presidency, and at this European Council in particular, can take pride in Britain's achievement. The European Community has reached decisions on issues that many thought were insoluble; it has prepared the way for enlargement, it has

made itself more responsive to public opinion." Well, some might say bally for it, but now what?

The occasion seemed to demand party hats and bunting, but Major's statement, John Smith's tepid response to it, and the dreary questions that followed made for a chewy afternoon. For Bill Cash, who can normally produce three new wicked things Brussels has done that very morning, asked Major a simply unmemorable question before sloping dispiritedly out of the House.

Though the benches were fuller, the brain activity level in the chamber during the prime minister's EC statement was as animated as it was for Questions to the Welsh Secretary and Questions to the Duchy of Lancaster that preceded it, which are as close as

the Commons gets to a state of clinical torpor.

So what went wrong? Frankly, the heart has gone out of the whole Maastricht business. As long as Denmark was putting in more oars than a Viking longboat, and as long as Tory Euro-sceptics felt they had a chance of bullying and tilting the world in their favour, politics looked lively, democracy seemed in rude health, and the question of Europe gave everyone from subsidised farmers to car-jam makers something to bawl about. If it is all now plain sailing to mass ratification, there is no more fun in the chase. It's just a pushover.

Even good causes need whetstones against which they can keep their arguments sharp. It keeps everyone's adrenalin up and makes us feel alive. From now on, Maastricht may not. Only Denmark's nose-thumbing referendum gave the EC any spice recently. What can Major do about all this? Luckily there is a solution that will get both him and the opposition off the hook. One of Major's ambitions is enlargement of the EC. Mr Smith agreed yesterday that this would provide "a new and healthy dynamic".

Sadly, Sweden, Finland and Austria are not up to the task of being Major's new rallying points, not racy enough to provide both fuel for the Euro-sceptic and a cause for Euro-fans to champion. No, Major must make recalcitrant Switzerland, which recently voted against hugging Europe, his next challenge.

Switzerland already behaves in such fanciful ways that it will be a fount of Euro-sceptics. In Zurich, government officials spend £3 million a year

washing the grit before it is sprinkled on the streets to tackle the winter snow and ice. Some 625,000 Swiss citizen soldiers keep an army rifle in their coat cupboard. You can walk into a remote Swiss farmhouse and see a dried boar's penis hanging from the ceiling, a lucky charm not, so far imitated by Smallbone of Devizes in their chalet kitchen decor range. Here is a country that will keep the spirit of close European union alive.

We are willing to be bullied to death by Brussels, but we won't tolerate being bored to death. To warn us of just how deathly life can get in the Commons when the zip goes, Mr Major later gave way to David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, who returned to the dispatch box to fill us in on "local government finance matters in Wales".

Inmates in D Hall seized the officer at 4.30pm on Sunday as they were being locked up for the night. Police surrounded the jail, which holds 442 prisoners. Sixty prisoners who did not want to be involved in the incident left the hall immediately. Later two more emerged, one with serious injuries to his face and body. He was treated for stab wounds in hospital and was said to be in a comfortable condition.

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## Victim planned funeral

An 11-year-old heart and lung transplant patient planned her own funeral when she knew her operation had failed. Kelly Good, a victim of cystic fibrosis, died last week, 10 months after her operation at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. A few weeks earlier she had sat with the Rev Pat Phillips, the woman deacon in charge of St Mary's parish church, at Newent, Gloucestershire, and chosen the hymns.

Yesterday the church was filled with 350 friends and relations, many in tears as her coffin was carried into the church while Art Garfunkel's recording of *Bright Eyes* was played. The song was the theme from her favourite book and film, *Watership Down*. Classmates from Pickleash primary school in Newent sang her three chosen songs, *Morning Has Broken*, *Once in Royal David's City*, and *The Colours of Day*.

## Protesters take to trees

Three protesters tied themselves to trees 20ft above the ground yesterday in the latest attempt to stop work on a new motorway link. Demonstrators had earlier left a camp at Twyford Down near Winchester, Hampshire, where they had lived for three months while trying to block construction of the M3 link. They left only minutes before a 9am eviction order, granted to landowner Winchester College last week, came into force. A hardcore of protesters, known as the Dongas Tribe and named after ancient trackways in the area, lashed themselves to the trees. Fifty police officers were on the down today, joining more than 50 private security guards employed by the transport department.

## BR agrees damages

Mrs Gillian Loader, 35, widow of a man who died in the Clapham rail disaster, was awarded £485,000 damages in the High Court. Her daughter Sally, 10, and son Timothy, seven, will receive £25,000 each in an agreed award against British Rail. Stephen Loader, 34, of Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, was a £28,000-a-year personnel manager at Midland Bank when the accident happened in south London on December 12, 1988. Thirty-five people died and hundreds were injured. A BR spokesman said more than £9 million had been paid out in compensation so far. Forty-five claims for damages for death and injury still have to be settled.

## Damages for press chief

Conrad Black, chairman of the publishers of *The Daily Telegraph*, received a public apology and substantial undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday. He had sued *The Independent on Sunday* over a report published in June about the flotation of *The Telegraph* plc. The article claimed that his retention of control of the company through Hollinger, his Canadian master company, was causing worry and that in view of his previous corporate activities in Canada, being a minority shareholder in one of his interests had not always been a pleasant experience. The newspaper apologised for "embarrassment and irritation" caused by the report.

## Media hearing today

National newspaper organisations and editors are to give evidence today at the final parliamentary hearing of an enquiry run by Clive Soley, the Labour MP, into the impact of legislation to control the media. Bodies giving evidence include the National Union of Journalists, the Press Complaints Commission and the Guild of British Editors.

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## MP not to face charges

Bribery charges against Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing North, are to be dropped. The Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday Mr Greenway was accused of accepting gifts, including foreign holidays, in return for using parliamentary influence on behalf of Plasser Railway Machinery in connection with British Rail contracts. The prosecution follows the acquittal of all defendants in another trial involving Plasser Railway. Mr Greenway was also accused of lying on a British nationality application for Norbert Jurasek, Plasser's managing director. That charge is also to be dropped.

But behind their military objective there is no political objective. Our response, in common with the international community, has consistently been "too little, too late". Since Britain has had the Presidency of the European Community for the past six months, the British government must hold some responsibility. The international community cannot watch while this conflict moves inexorably to its terrible conclusion. It must make clear that it will not allow the Muslim community to be swept away.

Sarajevo is becoming a symbol of the will of the European community to preserve peace on its borders, and of the UN's role in upholding international law. Sarajevo must not be allowed to fall.

## Correction

The documentary *Elizabeth R* was made by BBC television and not by Bonham Carter Associates as incorrectly reported on December 12.

## University heads chosen

Two universities with widely different traditions yesterday named new vice-chancellors. York chose Professor Ron Cooke, of University College London, while Glamorgan of Loughborough University, Professor Cooke, the vice-chancellor of UCL, is a leading geographer, who specialises in Geographers and has held research posts in three American universities. Professor Webb is returning to his roots in South Wales. He said the university had begun to demonstrate its potential and will increasingly develop its research role.

## State schools permitted to select some gifted pupils

■ New education guidelines will pave the way for specialisation in secondary schools despite critics' claims of segregation

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

STATE comprehensives will be allowed to select up to 10 per cent of their pupils from among those who are particularly talented in art, music or sport, ministers announced yesterday.

New admissions guidelines announced by Eric Forth, the education minister, gave official force to informal limits operated in grant-maintained schools for several months. The policy paves the way for government plans to encourage specialisation in secondary schools.

A circular defining the limits of selection in the state sector in advance of new legislation next year ruled out significant changes of character without reference to ministers. Alterations in the age range, mix of sexes, or ability of more pupils will still require the education secretary's approval.

The move was announced despite opposition from critics who claim that Conservative encouragement for specialisation in subjects such as science, languages or technology will produce 11-plus-style tests and a return to selection in state schools.

Mr Forth said encouraging schools to specialise in academic subjects should not be confused with selection on the basis of academic ability. He

said parents would welcome specialisation as "another step away from the uniformity which has held back our schools for so long".

Ann Taylor, Labour's education spokeswoman, yesterday described the plans as "specialisation by the back door". She added: "Segregation for some does not necessarily give those children the breadth of opportunity they require, but does mean the stigma of rejection for the vast majority."

The government's guidelines also aim to ensure all schools have clear admissions policies so that parents have a realistic idea of their child's chances of gaining a place at a popular school. Those schools which decide to specialise in academic subjects would apply to select pupils by ability only in "exceptional circumstances". Only two grant-maintained schools are being considered for grammar school status.

Ministers would expect all schools, including grant-maintained, to show local people had been consulted about such changes. The guidelines also stress non-selective schools should not use tests of ability to choose pupils.

The Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association said the guidelines were the "thin edge of the wedge for the reintroduction of academic selection". Gillian Woods, an assistant general secretary, said the move towards specialist schools would "narrow educational opportunities" for all children.

The guidelines encourage head teachers to meet parents, but stress that interviews should not affect a child's chances of securing a place. Only church schools will be able to seek reports on candidates or interview parents to judge a child's religious background and suitability.



## Dail fails to pick Taoiseach

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish parliament reconvened yesterday for the first time since last month's inconclusive general election and failed to choose a new Taoiseach. Albert Reynolds, the leader of Fianna Fail, remains prime minister in a caretaker capacity pending a further attempt to find a successor, possibly next Monday.

During the session three candidates, Mr Reynolds, John Bruton of Fine Gael and Dick Spring, the Labour leader, were proposed. Each failed to achieve sufficient

support to command the 166-seat house. The stalemate was widely predicted following two weeks of preliminary negotiations and manoeuvring between the parties which has not yet resulted in a basis for a new coalition.

There are increasing signs, however, that differences of policy and mutual suspicion between members of Labour and the right-wing Progressive Democrats has made the so-called Rainbow Coalition between them and Fine Gael an unworkable prospect.

Attention is now focusing on

a Labour-Fianna Fail deal which could keep Mr Reynolds in power. Fianna Fail has already offered Mr Spring generous concessions on Labour's key policy objectives and the party may be prepared to concede up to five cabinet seats.

Mary Harney, the Progressive Democrat former junior minister, said on her way into the Dail that she believed Labour had been involved in secret negotiations with Fianna Fail for more than a week and that a deal was virtually settled.

## Travnik yearning for defence

Continued from page 1  
likely defending the village. He explained that the British troops did have a calming influence — even if somebody on the hillsides took care to remind us that they were very much there with a mortar shell on our heads as we sped back to Travnik.

Over coffee, the Muslim commander help up his pistol and said: "This is what I have — my opposite number on the Serb side has a howitzer." One man asked to lift the arms embargo. But the unspoken question has to be answered. Are we prepared to allow the extinction of a recognised European state? Our troops, and the United Nations operation, have increased the aid getting through.

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## Homelessness rising

Centrefpoint Soho, a charity for the homeless, is today increasing number of young people living rough on the streets. The charity, which can provide accommodation for 300 young people a night, released a report saying that every before. Sixteen and 17-year-olds, who two decades ago formed 14 per cent of those seeking help from the charity, last year accounted for more than half. Centrefpoint cites rising unemployment, the low incomes of single parents and the fact that they are too young to claim benefit payments as the main reasons for their plight.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 15 1992

## Briton buried in swamp 'was shot by US partner'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BRITISH businessman whose body was found buried in a Florida swamp nearly two years after he disappeared was the victim of a \$1 million fraud, police in Miami said yesterday.

Howard Bates, 43, a computer expert from Hawkhurst, Kent, was reportedly shot through the back of the head after he flew to America in February 1991 to investigate a surgical-product manufacturer he had invested in.

Police claim that Mr Bates, a former RAF pilot who was married with three children, was lured to swampland near a factory site and shot after a showdown with his American business partner.

Albert Lucio, 32, Mr Bates's partner in a company called Bolden Surgical Products, and Wayne Merced, 26, have been charged with his murder. Merced's girlfriend, Magaly Carr, 29, has not yet been arrested but will be charged with first-degree murder. Fraud charges are also pending. After the arrests last week, police were led to the swamp and spent two days excavating it before recovering the body.

Police, who said there was no truth in earlier suggestions that Mr Bates had been unwittingly caught up in a drugs ring, disclosed that the business he was investing in was non-existent and his money had been misappropriated.

It was Lucio who reported Mr Bates missing on February 9, 1991, from his Miami hotel, where his clothes and passport were found abandoned. He had last been seen alive when he left La Quinta Motel near Miami airport on February 6 for a meeting. He had telephoned his wife the night before saying that all was well, but she never heard from him again.

Mr Bates co-founded South East Computers, a computer dealership in Hastings, East Sussex, 12 years ago and often travelled to America on business.

business. David Turner, the company's technical director at the time of Mr Bates's disappearance, said he had invested money in Bolden Surgical Products after South East Computers was sold to a technology group.

A Miami police spokesman said: "The theory is that Mr Bates, from June 1990 until his death, had invested over \$1 million with Lucio in the business and Lucio illegally took the funds out for his own gain. Mr Bates was concerned about his money and came out to confront Lucio. The three then conspired to murder him. There has been an extensive investigation over thousands of hours. He was shot in cold blood because he knew too much and was about to blow the whistle."

His widow Sheila, 43, hired a detective in Miami to search for her husband. Speaking at the family home, a converted barn, Mrs Bates said: "I am trying to come to terms with what has happened. I know very few details of what is happening in America."

"It is still too early for me to know what plans to make. All I want to do is spend some time with my children, who need me." The children are Matthew, 19, Joe, 17, and Becky, 11.

Mr Bates moved to Hawkhurst from Hastings in 1987. He chaired Hawkhurst football club in the East Sussex league and was a keen golfer. The football club's acting chairman, Phil Jones, 46, said: "Howard and Matthew both played a really good game of soccer, and often played together. Howard's business brain was brilliant for the club and he soon became our chairman. As I understand it, he wanted to set up a factory in Miami to manufacture surgical equipment to be used in operating theatres, but the factory never existed. He was shown a unit when he went on visits to the site, but it was never really available."

## Royals miscast in saga of hats and endless crises

SCOPE FEATURES

How viewers in America saw the royal family on Sunday night in the television film *Charles and Diana: Unhappily Ever After*FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN NEW YORK

THE timing of *Charles and Diana: Unhappily Ever After*, a television film depicting the marriage break-up of the Prince and Princess of Wales and broadcast to millions of Americans on Sunday night, could hardly have been better. The film itself could scarcely have been worse.

Superficial, stilted, miscast and mind-numbingly boring, the ABC

production, co-starring Catherine Oxenberg (formerly of *Dynasty*) and Roger Rees (formerly with the Royal Shakespeare Company) will doubtless prove one of the most successful TV films of the year. The relationship between the Prince and Princess forms the main drama, with the Duke and Duchess of York's separation a subplot in a film of relentless emotional crises, faux-pageantry and hats — hundreds of them, worn by everybody all the time, even

indoors. *Unhappily Ever After* takes us from the early days "when love still bloomed" to the "end of the fairy tale" — well, not quite, but the end is clearly in sight.

The film is unique in one sense. The American media have traditionally sided firmly with the Princess of Wales, who is usually portrayed as an innocent commoner brought low by the rigid regulations of royal life. This film, however, does not take sides since all the characters (with

the possible exception of the Queen) are almost equally ghastly. The Prince of Wales is aloof, pompous and obsessed with gardening; his wife is addicted to pop music and would rather be "teaching kindergarten"; the Duke of Edinburgh is despotic and old-fashioned. The Duchess of York is made to sound, and even dress, like Mrs Slocombe from *Are You Being Served?*

Diary, page 14

## Banks 'sending low earners into vicious cycle of debt'

By RAY CLANCY

PEOPLE with low incomes are increasingly turning to credit to help them to make ends meet in the recession but this is leading to a vicious cycle of debt, according to a report published today.

Unsympathetic banks are too ready to turn to debt collection agencies that use coercive and frightening tactics, says the report from the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux.

Banks are accused of failing to adopt voluntarily a code of practice that calls for legislation to regulate their credit activities. Urgent changes to the Consumer Credit Act 1974 to make it easier for victims of unsympathetic lenders to take court action and protect themselves are urged. The report says that the social fund is also failing and should be restructured to make it easier for the needy to obtain grants for essential furniture and clothes.

The report highlights the plight of families forced into debt who end up borrowing from illegal lenders, elderly people who cannot afford to heat their homes, and women who are sexually harassed by debt collectors. It concludes that credit has become a "sticking plaster" over inadequate benefit levels and expensive housing, but instead of helping it leads to long-term debt, often at extortionate interest rates.

In Somerset, a debt collector for a catalogue firm offered to

arrange for a woman's debts to be written off if she would have sex with him. He stood in her hallway while he discussed the matter with her.

In Northern Ireland a number of people on income support are borrowing money from lenders whose practices do not comply with the Consumer Credit Act 1974. They have no idea what rates of interest are being charged, they have no written proof of agreements and do not know how much they owe. A single mother with two children borrowed money from five such lenders.

An unemployed man in north London borrowed £250 from a loan shark, unaware that the annual percentage rate was 972 per cent. After seeking advice from his local advice bureau he was referred to a local trading standards officer who told him that any action for extortive credit was unlikely to succeed.

Often it is hidden penalties in loan deals that catch people out. In Tyne and Wear a man signed a secured loan for £6,000 in 1987 at an APR of 39.9 per cent repayable over 10 years. He fell into arrears and incurred penalties which increased the APR to 190 per cent. He has cleared the arrears and paid out £9,000 to date. When he asked if he could settle the loan early he was quoted a figure of £18,000 less £4,000 rebate. The original loan could end up costing him £39,000.

ART experts tempered curiosity with scepticism yesterday in reacting to the theory that Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa could be a mirror image of the artist's face.

The theory, reported yesterday's *Times*, was based on observations by Dr Digby Quested, a psychiatrist at the Maudsley hospital, London, about the Mona Lisa's smile.

Professor Martin Kemp, a Leonardo scholar at St Andrews University, Edinburgh, and consultant to the National Gallery in London, said it was possible that Leonardo had reversed the image unintentionally. "He was a left-hander and would have had a different inclination to painting, drawing and to reading things from right-handers." Also, he had advised artists to use a mirror to check their work.

But Professor Kemp dismissed the suggestion that the painting might be a self-portrait.

Evidence that the subject was Madonna Lisa, wife of Francesco del Giocondo, was "not rock solid but as good as we are ever likely to get".

Nicholas Penny, a Renaissance specialist at the National Gallery, said: "Speculation that there might be an autobiographical element in the Mona Lisa is not surprising, especially since it is an unusual type of portrait and more idealised than others by Leonardo."

Dickensian view, page 6

## Mona Lisa theory gets brush-off

By JEREMY LAURANCE

IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE, and the annual Glenmorangie party was in full swing. Somewhere a door opened. A sudden waft of icy Firthside air provoked a flurry of goosepimpls. And a briskly pedalling figure disappeared into the mist outside. "Who was that?" asked a visitor. "Oh, only George Mackenzie. He's away up to the mash-house to tend the mash."

Even those who do not work at the distillery know of George's dedication to the mash. Ask him why on Christmas Eve, Burns' Night, even Hogmanay he will give up all to be with his charge, and he will reply: "Time and the mash wait for no man."



SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT SCOTCH WHISKY.

## GLENMORANGIE

GEORGE MACKENZIE. Mashman.



## Hospital chiefs put Big Mac on the menu

By NICHOLAS WATT

SOGGY cabbage and overcooked potatoes were banished at Guy's Hospital in London yesterday when a McDonald's opened on the premises.

The government's flagship trust hospital, which pointedly refers to its patients as customers, decided that Big Macs and Chicken McNuggets had to appear on the menu if Guy's was to be truly Thatcherite. From now on "customers" hobbling into the grandeur of Guy's eighteenth century square can hear pop music and spot cut-outs of Ronald McDonald.

The first customers yesterday were impressed. Lynette Ely, who was visiting

the hospital with her two young children, said: "It's right pulka in here. It's normally so expensive to eat near the hospital, but I've fed my kids and got change out of a tenner."

Even before the new McDonald's opened, medical students at the hospital had requisitioned the brightly coloured restaurant. Imran Qureshi, one of the students, said: "This will become a major hang-out and I'm sure they'll end up having to kick us out. We're going to come here for breakfast, lunch and dinner." Imran Rao, another student, said that although he thought the food at McDonald's was junk, the college dining hall would soon go out of business. Paul Preston, president of McDonald's

UK, said: "We have restaurants at 26 hospitals in the US and thought it was time that Britain had one."

He defended the nutritional value of the food. "We have beef, chicken and salad on the menu and the food we serve is entirely in keeping with a normal British diet."

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## Veterans go to war over fruit machines

By ROBIN YOUNG

A DUNKIRK veteran banned from his old-soldiers' club after being accused of "Gestapo-style tactics" took his former comrades-in-arms to court yesterday.

Harold Hewitt, 70, who until last January was chairman of the National Prisoners of War Association, was expelled from the Salisbury branch of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association after it was discovered that he had used a hidden recorder to tape a meeting of the club's finance committee, suspecting that money was being stolen from the club's fruit machines.

Members of the club, dressed in navy blazers bearing their badge of a green shield with a gold fist, silver doves and an olive branch, packed the courtroom at the High Court in Winchester, Hampshire, as the case began yesterday.

Mr Hewitt, a former vice-chairman of the club, told the court that he became convinced that money was being taken from two fruit machines in the club's bar after reading a newspaper article about a fruit machine thief elsewhere.

Mr Hewitt said: "I had bought the club a new piano and a new boiler, but the moment I mentioned those fruit machines everything changed. I knew something was wrong. I went to the finance meeting with a tape recorder. They did not know I was wired up, but I wanted to know what was going on."

The jury, hearing a civil action brought by Mr Hewitt against Steve Curtis, the club chairman, and Louis Carrier, the secretary, in an attempt to win his membership back, were then played the tapes which Mr Hewitt had secretly recorded.

Mr Hewitt was suspended from the club in May 1986, and subsequently banned from committee meetings and finally from the club itself. Since then he has been fighting to win reinstatement, claiming that he never intended to upset anyone.

Mr Hewitt told the court: "The association was absolutely important to me. My wife and I used the club regularly every Friday night."

The case continues today.

HANDCRAFTED BY THE SIXTEEN MEN OF TAIN.

Animal liberationists suspected of firebombing Forestry Commission station

## Arson ruins 30 years of conservation research

By STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THIRTY years of research by one of Britain's leading experts on tree diseases was destroyed in a firebomb attack on a Forestry Commission station yesterday. The attack could be the work of animal liberation activists.

The attack was at the commission's research headquarters at Alice Holt Forest near Bordon, Hampshire, and destroyed the office of Brian Greig, the longest serving research officer at the station. If staff living near by had not been alerted, the blaze could have brought down the entire building.

Yesterday Hampshire police were unsure of the motive. One suggestion is that the station was attacked because of the commission's links with hunting.

Last month a demonstration was held at another commission site over the use of commission land for hunting. There could also have been objections to the station's work with red squirrels.

Mr Greig, 57, joined the station in 1959 after training at a forestry college and specialising in tree diseases. He was called from his home in a nearby village by a colleague after the fire began.

The station's caretaker and other staff worked to halt the fire but his office was wrecked, costing him 20 to 30 box files of material. They covered his research on Dutch Elm disease and new work on a disease attacking oaks called oak tree dieback.

Yesterday, as firemen cleared up, Mr Greig was left to gather what he could from the debris.

He said: "I'm absolutely shattered. Thirty years of work have gone up in smoke and it is irreplaceable; accumulated information and historical records." He said important research results had been published but this was only the bare bones of work which

would have been invaluable to others.

"I have got about a dozen plastic bags filled with bits of paper but there is likely to be very little to retrieve. I have lost an almost unique collection of colour slides as well as note books. I am not sure how I am going to tackle this problem. Some work might be reconstructed.

"I cannot believe that animal liberation extremists are responsible because all we do is study the behaviour of a handful of squirrels. I wouldn't dream of harming animals because my life's work is purely about conserving wildlife and forests."

Peter Rose, a scientist at the station, said: "I find it hard to believe this could be the work of animal extremists. I was woken up this morning when the firebomb blew out all the windows. If all of the devices had gone off the station would be in ruins."

Inspector Brian Beckingham of Hampshire police said the arsonists had deliberately scattered papers throughout the wood and concrete building and soaked them in petrol. They had then set up incendiary devices with timers round the building but only one erupted.

The inspector said: "The rest had exploded the whole centre would have been destroyed. The roof would have been taken off."

He said animal liberation activists could have been the culprits but the work of the station was "ultra-environmentally friendly". The station's work was solely to protect and conserve Britain's forests.

Animal liberation groups have been active in recent weeks with fires at a Midland agricultural college and attacks on factory farming companies. The station is one of two run by the Forestry Commission, and has never had any problems before.



Counting the cost: Brian Greig, whose life's work was about conservation, in his ruined office in the Alice Holt Forest research station

## Extremists are stepping up their campaign of violence

By STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ANIMAL rights extremists have been active recently in their own version of a Christmas terrorist campaign with a series of attacks against the meat and dairy producing industries. Arson attacks on refrigerated lorries, a poultry processing plant and a farm shop are likely to be followed by fresh assaults.

The activists have struck in support of a clutch of campaigns linked to preventing the continued exploitation of animals by man whether by hunting, for food, for science or for clothing. In the space of a decade, the activists have become adept at guerrilla raids, arson attacks and bombing attempts on opponents.

Robin Webb, a spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front, was released from prison after serving seven years of a ten-year sentence for attacks on stores. He said he intended to campaign now using legal methods.

One prong of the activist philosophy has centred on



Webb: gave a warning of Christmas campaign

banning the use of animals for fur, clothing, and a long-running campaign over the past decade has done much to reduce the fur trade. Department stores, fur shops and the fur trade have been firebombed in recent years and one attack several years ago in the Home Counties caused £10 million damage.

Activists have also begun to wage war on butchers, meat dealers and factory farmers in support of a vegetarian or vegan section of the campaign. Vehicles have been attacked, farms raided and shops set alight.

The battle against scientific research has led to bombs placed under the vehicles of researchers, including one in Bristol two years ago which injured a baby near by. The homes of scientists have been raided and laboratories attacked to release animals in raids sometimes carefully planned for their propaganda value.

The police response has been a series of successful operations and convictions.

price of vehicles might save 1 or 2 million tonnes, and speed governors on all new cars could save up to a million tonnes. A further million tonnes could be saved by support for renewable energy such as wind power.

Britain must reduce its annual carbon dioxide emissions by 10 million tonnes before 2000 to comply with agreements made at the Rio summit in June.

The document says that a tax on fossil fuels set at \$10 for a barrel of oil could achieve the entire saving.

Doubling petrol prices could have the same effect as every 10 per cent increase would save a million tonnes of the gas. An extended programme of energy efficiency might save up to 3.5 million tonnes a year, while setting energy standards for domestic electrical appliances could save 2 million tonnes.

Linking fuel efficiency to the

## Howard puts price on emission cuts

By MICHAEL McCARTHY

FUEL prices will have to rise regardless of the option chosen by the government to cut Britain's carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2000, a consultation document published by Michael Howard, the environment secretary, revealed yesterday.

Asked about his own energy saving commitments, Mr Howard said that he had some light bulbs in his Chelsea home and lagging in the roof. The house would shortly be given an energy survey.

□ Air pollution is a potentially serious health risk to one in five of the population. Friends of the Earth said yesterday (Michael Hornby writes):

Three out of four sites in London monitored over a 11-month period showed average nitrogen dioxide levels above EC recommended limits. The group said that the very young, the elderly and people suffering from asthma and other respiratory diseases were at risk.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Three die in house blaze

A woman died yesterday in a vain attempt to save the lives of her brother and mother when flames engulfed their home.

Firemen wearing breathing equipment recovered the bodies of Robert Hughes, 26, and Kathleen, 60, from the gutted house in Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan.

Claire Hughes, 25, was taken to Prince Charles hospital but was dead on arrival. Kenneth Duke, 66, a neighbour, said: "I could hear Claire shouting for help, calling her brother's name as if she was trying to wake him up. No one had a chance to get into the house. The smoke and flames were so fierce."

### Lucky find

Nick King, who found £3,000 cash in a plastic bag while walking his dog in Caversham, Berkshire, immediately gave the money to police. It was returned to its owner, an unemployed man who had dropped the bag after setting off on his bike to buy a car.

### RAF rescue

A woman aged 78 was rescued after three-car collision by the crew of a passing RAF Sea King helicopter. They helped paramedics and flew her to Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne.

### 12-hour ordeal

A Brighton woman aged 90 was impaled on a metal hearth for more than 12 hours before being rescued by firemen and taken to hospital with a piece of metal embedded in her leg. Her condition was satisfactory.

### £7,000 mix-up

Gedling Borough Council, Nottinghamshire, has been ordered by the ombudsman to pay a small farmer compensation after a mix-up over planning permission that cost him more than £7,000.

### Doctor loses

Dr Thomas Anderson McAllister of Scotland lost his fight to have his name restored to the medical register after a judgment of the Privy Council's judicial committee.

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MINOLTA

## Safer laser surgery operation can correct severe short sightedness

By NIGEL HAWKES

LASER treatment for correcting severe short sight has been launched by a London clinic. The operation, performed under general anaesthetic, involves removing a thin disc of material from the cornea, reshaping it with a laser and then replacing it in the patient's eye.

The result is to alter the shape of the cornea so that it is able to focus light more accurately.

Existing laser operations, which involve removing material from the front of the cornea, are suitable for the mild-to-moderately short-sighted.

The new operation, however, is designed for the small number of people who are so short-sighted that it amounts to a disability.

There are believed to be some 200,000 people in Britain who are seriously short sighted.

The technique, known as intrastromal keratomileusis, was developed in Italy by Dr Lucio Buratto, an ophthalmic surgeon.

Under general anaesthetic, a suction ring is placed on the eye and a thin disc of cornea about 8mm in diameter and just under 1mm thick is cut from the cornea using a rotating blade.

The disc is placed face down on a rubber support and a precise amount of material, calculated from the degree of myopia, is removed from the back using a laser. This produces a beam of ultraviolet light that vaporises tissue molecules at a time, without damaging the surrounding tissue. The disc is then replaced in the patient's eye and sewn into place.

Recovery is rapid, with no tendency to form scar tissue. Dr Buratto has performed 200 such operations in Italy, and 85 per cent of his patients achieved sight very close to normal.

The treatment has been launched in Britain by the Arnott Ophthalmic Clinic at the Cromwell Hospital, Kensington, west London, which carries it out as day surgery.

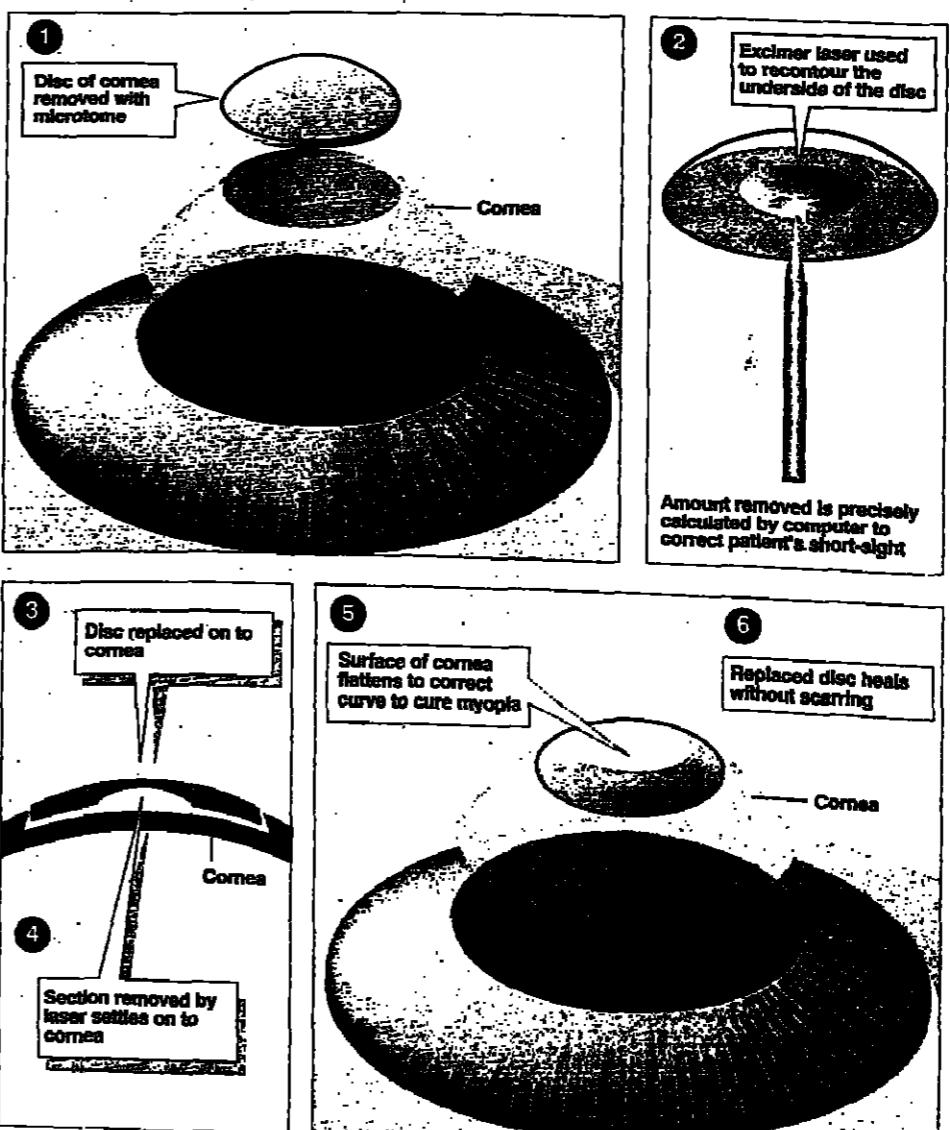
Stephen Arnott, the clinic's business manager, says the

years. The commonest is radial keratotomy, pioneered in Russia, in which a series of tiny cuts in the cornea is made to alter its shape.

Many thousands of such operations have taken place, but most British eye surgeons have preferred to wait for the new laser, which is seen as a safer and more predictable tool.

The new technique does not guarantee to liberate the extremely short-sighted from glasses.

"For these patients, it's not just a question of wearing glasses, it's the look of the glasses," Mr Arnott says. "For some of them it's like looking through the bottom of a fishbowl."



THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 15 1992

Three die  
in house  
blaze

# Top charity bosses are paid more than £60,000

By IAN MURRAY

EXECUTIVES who run Britain's main charities are paid more than £60,000 a year and are provided with a car, according to a survey of 69 voluntary organisations by Reward, a pay review organisation.

Such high salaries are an exception, however, and involve only the largest charities with the biggest staffs and budgets. The recession is forcing most charities to tighten their belts and shed staff. London pay of the highest grades is still almost 10 per cent below levels of executives with comparable responsibility in the private sector and all the signs are that the gap will widen.

Charity workers' pay rose by an average 6 per cent last year, but this was possible only by cutting the number of workers and services.

The Queen is not alone in feeling that to date 1992 has been an *annus horribilis*, said Peter Brown, chairman of Charity Appointments recruitment agency. "Many voluntary organisations have found the increasing demand for their services matched by a fall in central and local government grants, and their appeals income has forced them to curtail essential services."

According to Mr Brown, salaries for top charity managers have to be high to recruit executives capable of running organisations with more than 1,000 staff and an annual turnover of more than £50 million. People who can mastermind fund raising and know how to use limited

resources efficiently do not come cheaply. Mr Brown insists that the recruitment of skilled outsiders has been justified by the way most charities have been able to manage in difficult circumstances.

"Big corporate donors insist on minutely investigating the efficiency of charities they support," Mr Brown said. "If they applied the same kind of standards to their own businesses they would save millions."

The recession is proving to be a bonus for recruitment. Redundant managers are looking to them for work and Mr Brown receives 200 letters a week from executives ready to take pay cuts rather than wait indefinitely for promotion. "They are prepared to be less well paid and feel that they are doing something worthwhile. That would never have happened in the mid-1980s."

Charity pay levels traditionally follow those in local government, so next year's pay rises are unlikely to be much above the public sector 1.5 per cent review figure announced in the Autumn Statement.

In consequence, there is every chance that the gap between charity wages and those in other sectors will widen over the next year.

The Reward survey shows that apart from the largest charities, the average pay for a London-based chief executive is £42,000 a year, compared with £50,000 in the private sector.

The gap at middle management rank is, at 30 per cent, far wider, although the need for publicity means that a charity advertisement or public relations manager can expect to earn up to 17 per cent more than his or her counterpart in other sectors.

At the lower secretarial grades, too, the charity worker outside London is over 11 per cent better paid than those doing similar jobs in other sectors.

Charities 1992/93 Salary Survey (Reward; £150)

	£	%
Chief executive	42,000	93.3
Chief accountant	27,565	90.1
PR manager	36,857	117.6
Admin manager	29,000	83.1
Senior scientist	16,192	94.6
Administrator	15,249	98.6
Programmer	13,563	98.6
Mgr's secretary	11,717	110.6
Clerk	10,940	115.2

Source: Reward Group

## Pollution-free zone scheme to protect underground water

By MICHAEL McCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE underground water supplies of England and Wales are to be systematically protected from the increasing threats of pollution and over-abstraction, the National Rivers Authority announced yesterday.

Hundreds of protection zones are to be established around groundwater sources such as boreholes, springs and wells in which farmers, industrialists, waste disposal contractors, developers and planning authorities will be encouraged to restrict activities that could contaminate supplies.

If the voluntary approach proves insufficient, the authority may seek to make the zones, which could cover thousands of acres, statutory areas in which developments that pose a threat could be banned automatically.

Abstractions by water companies which cause rivers and

streams to dry up will be forbidden. Drawing of supplies will be permitted only as long as there is "no unacceptable detriment to any watercourse".

The authority said yesterday that groundwater, which provides 35 per cent of drinking water, is increasingly at risk of contamination both from the disposal of waste materials and from the widespread use of potentially polluting chemicals in industry and agriculture.

The authority has mapped all English and Welsh underground reservoirs, aquifers, according to their vulnerability to pollution, which is determined by the natural characteristics of the soil and the rocks underneath. There are estimated to be 2,000 major public supply sources, with many more private points.

The first 750 source protection zones, covering about half the drinking water sources in England and Wales, are expected to be defined by August next year.

Jan Pentreath, the authority's chief scientist, said: "The quality and quantity of groundwater must be protected. It is a vital water resource which is extremely difficult and expensive to clean up once it becomes polluted, so the main message of the policy is that prevention is better than cure."

Polluted groundwater, the authority says, is difficult if not impossible to rehabilitate,

with the process of self-purification, which takes days or weeks in rivers or lakes, likely to take decades underground.

Policy and practice for the protection of groundwater (National Rivers Authority, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE8 4ET; £15)

BARRY GREENWOOD

## South Pole team cover 380 miles

By A STAFF REPORTER

SIR Ranulph Fiennes is almost halfway to the South Pole and is making good progress in his attempt to make the first unaided crossing of Antarctica.

After 35 days of the expedition, Sir Ranulph, 48, and his companion Dr Michael Stroud, 37, have completed almost 380 miles of their 2,200-mile trek.

David Harrison, the expedition spokesman, said that apart from the odd blister and occasional backache caused by pulling their sledges, which weigh 400lb, there had been no serious hitch so far.

The pair, who hope to raise £2 million for charity, are halfway up the Antarctic plateau, having climbed 5,000ft with the steepest part behind them. They are scheduled to reach the South Pole within 70 days and have allowed just over 100 days to complete the journey to Scott Base.

The men are trying to keep ahead of Erling Kagge, a lawyer from Norway who is attempting the same feat. He left late because of bad weather but hopes to make up lost time and overtake his rivals.

Mr Harrison said: "Ranulph and Michael are absolutely fine. The messages that are coming back on a daily basis are positive. They say that they are really going for it. In a couple of days we expect them to be halfway to the Pole."

"They have had a lot of backache in the early stages. Michael Stroud had a bit of a problem with his heel and his Achilles tendon but he has treated that. Judging by the mileage they are making that is not causing any delay. They are still on schedule."

A big fund-raising campaign is under way, including television, press and poster advertisements. The organisers hope that the venture will raise about £2 million for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain.

Mr Harrison said: "Raising money at the moment is hard work for everybody. One has to put an awful lot of work into it. It is going pretty well but it is difficult to put figures on it."



Epic journey: Japan may lead the world in new technology, but Britain can still show the Orient a thing or two about steam age engineering. Today a steam locomotive built by the Ravenglass & Eskdale Engineering Company will leave Cumbria bound for a railway line on the other side of the world outside Tokyo. The company was sought out by the creators of the Nijo-No-Sato leisure park near the Japanese capital to build a narrow gauge engine as an attraction.



Shipshape: HMS Plymouth, which survived four bombs during the conflict with Argentina in 1982, is in good shape and will return to her public viewing duties in Birkenhead today after spending time in dry dock for inspection (Michael Evans writes). The frigate, which was bought by the Warship Preservation Trust in April 1990, is regarded as a floating memorial to the sailors who lost their lives in the South Atlantic.

## Tusa warns of threat to World Service

By MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JOHN TUSA, who retires at Christmas as managing director of the BBC World Service, yesterday called on his successor to fight a proposed £5 million cut in the Foreign Office's contribution to the service.

He said the budget cut, recommended by the Treasury in advance of negotiations next April, would "gravely damage" the World Service by "cutting straight into programmes" and could reduce the range of its language output in 1994. "It is equivalent to cutting our newsgathering budget in half; either that or we would be looking at losing seven hours a week of language output."

The total operational budget of the World Service, which celebrates its diamond jubilee this weekend, is £133 million.

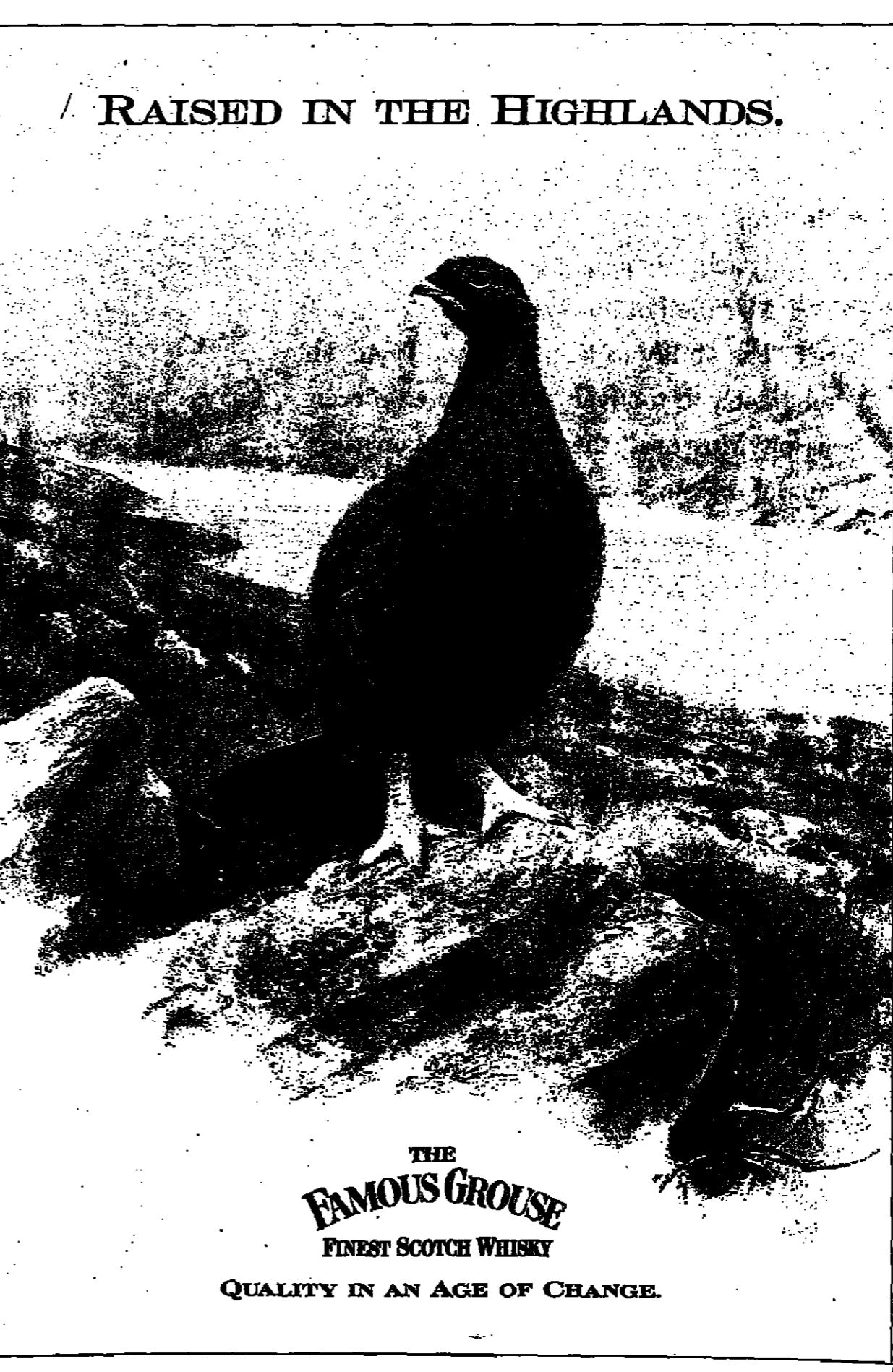
Although he refused to speculate about his successor, who is not due to be named until next month, Mr Tusa said: "The first job of the next incumbent is to get the £5 million rolled back."

Some of the names mentioned as possible successors include Baroness Chalker, overseas development minister, Tony Hall, director of BBC news and current affairs, Peter Jay, BBC economics correspondent, and John Simpson, the BBC's foreign editor.

Mr Tusa, a fierce defender of the World Service's independence from government influence during his six-year term, said his other advice for the next managing director would be to defend the World Service's independence. "The game is up for us if there is a perceived or actual erosion of our independence," he said.

David Witherow, Mr Tusa's deputy, will be confirmed on Thursday as the interim managing director. □ The prime minister, John Major, will be David Frost's first guest on *Breakfast With Frost*, a new political interview programme for Sunday mornings starting on BBC1 on January 3.

RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



THE  
FAMOUS GROUSE  
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

## HOME NEWS 5

# Solicitors gather tragic cases for legal aid battle

■ The Law Society fears 10 million people will be barred from seeking help with court cases if government cost-cutting goes ahead

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE dossier of a young woman whose baby died after her uterus was ruptured in childbirth and whose reproductive organs had to be removed is among the tragic cases sent to the Law Society if it fights government plans to curb spending on legal aid.

The cases have come from firms throughout the country to illustrate the kind of people they believe will be excluded from pursuing legal actions under the proposals to be brought in next April.

The Law Society will put its case this week at a special "teach-in" at the Commons, expected to be attended by about 100 MPs. At the same time the society is thought to be drafting alternative proposals to put to Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor. These would meet his need to curb soaring costs without excluding possibly 10 million people from the legal aid scheme.

Such professional negligence cases are often complex, involve substantial sums and run for several years. Another case, sent in by Foster Wells, solicitors in Aldershot, highlights the concern that defendants are often charged "where there is not really sufficient evidence, on the basis that the police feel that the court should decide".

James Corfield, 17, was charged with being in charge of a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. He had been to a night club with friends and, knowing that he should not drive home, went to sleep in the car. He was woken by police banging on the window and taken for a breath test. He obtained legal aid and two days before trial the case was discontinued. His solicitor, Roger Hayman-Start, said that under new guidance to magistrates' courts he would not have obtained legal aid.

"Without the benefit of legal advice, there is an overwhelming temptation to plead guilty simply to get the matter out of the way or simply because of ignorance of the law," Hayman-Start said.

## Love letters to Elizabeth I fail to attract a buyer

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

LETTERS to Elizabeth I from the favourite that she later had executed failed to sell at an auction in London yesterday.

Sotheby's initially offered the 43 letters from the Earl of Essex to his "most fayr, most deere, and most excellent" Elizabeth I to the British Library, which had kept them on loan since 1945. But the library said yesterday that the price was too high. "We took commercial advice and that came in at a lot less," a spokesman said. "The fee was not negotiable."

Only two other lots at the ten-lot sale found buyers. The first, knocked down at £5,500, was a single letter from Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. He was the queen's favourite before Lord Essex, and in the letter he talks coyly of not hearing from her. The second lot, a letter from Sir Francis Bacon to Lord Essex, sold at £13,000.

The unsold letters refer to many of the Earl of Essex's exploits, such as his unsuccessful attempt to capture the Spanish treasure fleet. Written in what one contem-

porary called Essex's "ragged Roman hand," they also reflect the earl and queen's tempestuous relationship, switching in mood from the polite to the passionate, the reproachful to the defiant.

There is now speculation that the vendors, believed to be descendants of the family that founded the Hulton Picture Library, may go back to the British Library and lower their price or ask that the letters be loaned again.

Hinda Rose of Maggs Brothers, a leading London

manuscript dealer, suggested that the lack of interest was due to fears among potential overseas buyers about a government export ban. The £400,000 to £500,000 estimate for the letters from Lord Essex to his queen was "an awful lot of money in these times," she added. "There was not a single bid."

Roy Davids of Sotheby's said he did not believe the letters were overpriced because they were "one of the most important consignments" he had offered.

The auction house had

more success with letters from the literary collection of Jeffrey Young, a private London-based collector. Charlotte Brontë's letter to her publishers offering them what became her most famous book, *Jane Eyre*, sold for £66,000, double the estimate.

Lord Nelson's first letter to Lady Hamilton, dated 29.3.50. It includes the line:

"As soon as I have fought the French fleet I shall do myself the honor of paying my respects to Your Ladyship."

Diary, page 14



Earl of Essex wrote in 'ragged Roman hand'.



Elizabeth I: described as 'most fayr and deere'

## Experts call for end to Dickensian view of bankruptcy

BY TONY DAWE

■ People whose businesses face collapse deserve to be given professional help and guidance rather than be treated as crooks

ripping off creditors and they

should feel the full force of the law. But there should be different provisions for ordinary hardworking entrepreneurs whose firms fall through no fault of their own.

They believe that more busi-

nesses and jobs could be saved if anxious creditors and desper-

ate company directors avoided the rush to bankruptcy that has engulfed a record

number of people this year.

They are also demanding a

review of the costs involved in

bankruptcy, and the fees

charged by insolvency practi-

tioners who have been ac-

cused, as *The Times* disclosed

yesterday, of profiteering from others' misfortunes.

John McQueen, chief execu-

tive of the Bankruptcy Associa-

tion, said: "A blanket law

which treats everyone in finan-

cial trouble as a crook is totally

inappropriate in the current

economic climate. There are

still people running around

insolvency firm in west London, demanded more sup-

port for individual voluntary arrangements that allow a person facing bankruptcy to continue in business and agree a timetable for debt repayment with his creditors.

"This is the best way to proceed if a businessman still has some funds and some future, because it guarantees the creditors some money," he said. "If he goes into bank-

ruptcy, they may get nothing after statutory charges are imposed by the trade depart-

ment and the insolvency practi-

tioner's fees are paid."

Mr Franks joined MPs, including Frank Field, who has led the parliamentary investigation into the missing Maxwell pension funds, and Keith Vaz, who has cam-

paigning for BCCI creditors, in

calling for tighter controls on

insolvency fees. The MPs

want Parliament to have the

power to examine fees charged

by firms involved in sorting

out major insolvencies.

Mr Franks also wants in-

solvency firms to be paid a

percentage of the funds they

obtain instead of for the time

they take. "If you charge by the

hour, your costs will always be

open to question and creditors

will never know what their

dividend is likely to be," he

said.

Mr McQueen would prefer

to see a world without insol-

vency practitioners. He called

instead for an extension of

voluntary arrangements for

those willing to try to dis-

charge their debts.

He also believes that admin-

istration orders, which are

imposed by courts to force

people with debts of less than

£5,000 to make regular pay-

ments to creditors, should be

extended to cover far larger

debts.

## Fairy godmother who soothes away the pain

THE story of how Bjorn and Greta Luza staved off bank-

ruptcy has been devised by

insolvency experts to show that

there is a less painful alterna-

tive for people who face busi-

ness failure.

In a performance that in-

cludes a godfather and a fairy

godmother, the Luzas are

portrayed as Italian restaurant

owners who set up in London

after being forced to leave

Scandinavia.

The story was devised by Ian

Frances, head of a west

London insolvency firm. It

tells how the Luzas enjoyed

two successful years before the

recession and an unwise in-

vestment in a protection racket

left them with debts to

suppliers and investors of

£144,000.

A creditor petitions for

bankruptcy when the drop in

property values has left no

equity in their home or restau-

rant and all they can raise by

selling assets is £21,250.

By the time the trade depart-

ment's statutory bankruptcy

charges, the receiver's fees and

the preferential creditors have

been paid, just £1,995 is left to

provide unsecured creditors

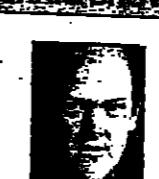
with a dividend of 1.4p for

every pound owed.

But in the performance,

### The way it isn't

#### CHARLES JAGGER



YOU can learn a lot from

museum curators. At the

weekend, I enjoyed a stroll

around the art collection of

the Imperial War Museum,

a visit greatly enhanced by

my luck in chatting to a

very enthusiastic atten-

dant. He was happy to

guide me round, filling me

in on historical detail and

drawing to my attention

both the weak points of

Nash and the strong points

of Nevinson, of whom I had

previously known nothing.

Before long we arrived in

front of a small sculpture

by Charles Sargeant Jagger.

"I'll bet you didn't

know this," he said, "but

Charles Sargeant Jagger

was the great uncle of Mick

Jagger. Imagine it!

The greatest sculptor we've ever

produced, and he's Mick

Jagger's great uncle."

I looked at him with a

semi-sceptical expression,

but I could see from his

face that he was telling the

truth. I love these bizarre

family connections, and

this one seemed to be up

there with the best of them,

Margaret Rutherford being

the great aunt of Tony Benn.

That Mick Jagger came

round here with a group of

friends the other day," con-

tinued the curator, "and he

was telling them the big-

gest load of rubbish about

him, but there he was,

spouting off. So in the end I

saw red, and I said to him,

"You must be grateful that

at least there's been one

talented member of the

# Summit success gives the upper hand to pro-Europe Tories

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY Euro-enthusiasts displayed new-found confidence in the wake of the Edinburgh summit yesterday as they called on John Major to push the Maastricht ratification bill through the Commons as quickly as possible.

The prime minister was given a warm reception from Tory MPs as he told them that the summit had brought the EC together again with a common purpose and reached decisions on issues considered by many as "insoluble".

After months in which the Tory Euro-sceptics have held sway in the internal party debate, the pro-European wing was firmly in the ascendant yesterday as Mr Major was given an easy ride by critics on both sides who found little ammunition in the Edinburgh agreement.

Although Mr Major was non-committal in response to pressure for an acceleration of the Maastricht process, senior ministers are growing more hopeful that if the Danish second referendum results in a "Yes" vote, Britain will be able to move towards ratification before the Commons rises for the summer recess in July. He was cheered as he said that making a success of EC membership was not a matter of idealism but of "hard-headed self interest". He told MPs that the growth initiative proposed by the summit could support up to £24 billion worth of projects.

Throughout hour-long Commons exchanges he

emphasised the importance of the imminent negotiations to enlarge the EC, a priority of the British presidency, and added: "What underpinned all our discussions at Edinburgh was the belief that the Community should continue to go ahead together as 12, not 11, not ten, not any other number, until such time as the Community is enlarged."

John Smith, the Labour leader, welcomed the agreements on enlargement and the Danish ratification of Maastricht. He insisted that action against unemployment was the most important test of the Community's relevance and said it remained a matter of "concern and regret" that this had been consistently downgraded during the British presidency. With unemployment in Britain "rising twice as fast as in any other EC country", and that across the EC expected to rise above 11 per cent, "should not the recovery of economic growth and the stimulation of employment have been a crucial objective of this summit?"

Mr Smith said: "Given the appalling prospect of sharply rising unemployment, why was there no proposal for an emergency employment programme right across the whole Community?" He accused the government of "deplorable neglect" of social issues during its presidency, but claimed the signs now were that "despite the foolish British opt-out, the social chapter appears to be alive

## Labour budget cuts threaten HQ staff

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

STAFF at Labour party headquarters will be reduced by 25 per cent under proposals for sweeping cuts in the party's budget which are to be put to the national executive committee tomorrow. The plans include closing three of the nine regional offices, with the loss of 10 to 12 jobs.

The final report from the finance working party, which has been asked to reduce the £6 million annual budget by a third, says that the headquarters staff for the years between elections should be cut from 120 to 90. Redundancies will be avoided in most cases because many posts have been frozen since the general election, although some people will be offered early retirement. The proposal to cut regional offices by a third is likely to be met by fierce opposition, however, as many MPs and party workers argue for more resources at the grassroots level.

Some members of the NEC are also expected to oppose a proposal to double MPs' contribution to the party to 2 per cent of their salary, arguing that this is particularly unfair when MPs' salaries are being frozen next year. This measure alone would raise £190,000 a year. The report also proposes cutting back its glossy documents and holding all conferences — except the annual party conference — every two years.

## Benn takes on the House of Windsor

By JONATHAN PRYNN

The twin constitutional dilemmas posed by the Maastricht treaty and the royal family's problems has given a new lease of life to the republican instincts of Tony Benn.

The former Labour cabinet minister yesterday reintroduced a bill in the Commons that aims to abolish the constitutional "roadblock" of the crown and introduce sweeping reforms of Britain's constitutional architecture.

Mr Benn's measure, the Commonwealth of Britain bill, was originally presented to Parliament last year. Although the bill is due for its second reading on January 29, it has no chance of making further parliamentary progress. However, it has been given new relevance by the debate over the future of the monarchy.

At a Westminster press conference yesterday, Mr Benn said that public servants' "feudal relationship with the sovereign" meant that the British system of government allowed "very



Coal face: Neil Clarke, the British Coal chairman, giving evidence yesterday

## Confusion over pit closures

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A PICTURE of confusion and misunderstanding between the government and British Coal emerged yesterday as MPs pressed senior industry figures over proposed pit closures.

The Commons employment select committee, which is examining the employment consequences of the closures, repeatedly asked Neil Clarke, British Coal's chairman, and senior colleagues why Gillian Shepherd, the employment secretary, had not been involved in discussions over the planned loss of 30,000 mining jobs.

Michael Coffey, Mr Clarke's former adviser, said that meetings had not been arranged because Mrs Shepherd's office had declared a previous meeting with Michael Howard, the former employment secretary, "a waste of time". The government reaction had caused "surprise and dismay" at British Coal, he said. Mrs Shepherd told the committee last week that no such indication had been given by her department.

PowerGen deal, page 21

## Recovery fails to take hold

By SHEILA GUNN

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont admitted yesterday that, despite promising signs, economic recovery had failed to take hold. Although reluctant to make fresh predictions about an early end to the recession, the Chancellor insisted that the scene was now set for recovery and growth. Britain, he said, could look forward to 1993 as a "year of progress".

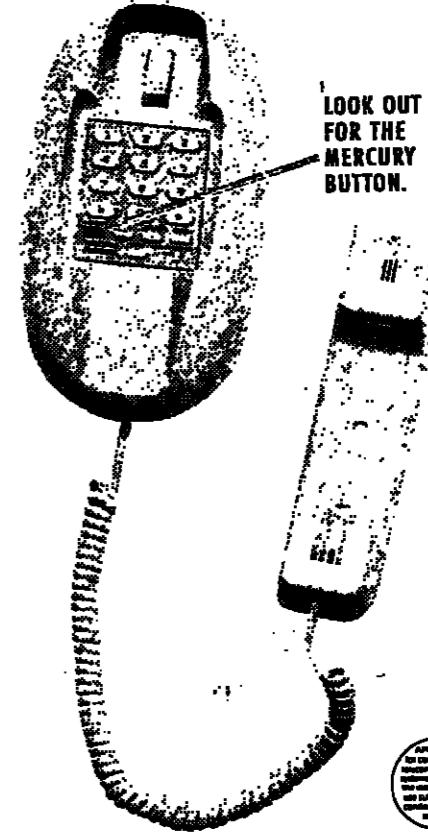
Writing in *The House* magazine, the parliamentary journal, Mr Lamont said that the magic ingredient needed to spark recovery was confidence. "Chancellors cannot create confidence. Animal spirits cannot be summoned up by government fiat," he added. "But I can create the right conditions for confidence to revive. Dropping his customary caution, he said that he believed the right economic environment was now in place to bring about an end to the recession.

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# Yeltsin forced to let ideological enemy control the government

FROM ANNE McELVOY  
IN MOSCOW

THE crack in Boris Yeltsin's usually booming voice when he announced his campaign to keep Yegor Gaidar, the radical reform economist, at the head of his government was the most poignant indicator of the impact of yesterday's election of Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister.

The rise of Mr Chernomyrdin, former Soviet gas minister and a disciple of the main opposition Civic Union which aims to slow the reform process, is the Russian leader's nightmare come true. It leaves him with an ideological foe running the government and his strategy in tatters. Mr Yeltsin's survival, and the continuation of recognisable reform, are now in jeopardy.

Mr Yeltsin looked downcast and hesitant as he read out a barely coherent statement. "I remain committed to Yegor Timurovich [Gaidar]. He could be the best choice. After we spoke, he did not directly withdraw his candidature but with his consent I considered another candidate," he said.

■ President Yeltsin has had to give in to Congress time and again. The rejection of his protégé, Yegor Gaidar, is turning even his strongest supporters against him

Mr Gaidar promptly announced that he was leaving the government in a statement whose tone left no doubt about his fears for the future of reform. "I do not want to interfere with [Chernomyrdin's] ... efforts to carry out the policies which he deems necessary," he said.

The new prime minister lost no time in making clear that he represents a substantial shift away from present policies.

To loud applause he spoke of the need to "end the deadlock" between government and opposition and said that reform must not continue at the expense of impoverishment of the Russian people. As he left the Kremlin, a despondent Mr Gaidar commented that he saw "no way reforms could continue" under the new prime minister.

With over 400 votes against his candidate, Mr Yeltsin did not have the confidence to take

his planned "escape route" of leaving Mr Gaidar as acting head of government until April.

"I think that this is a catastrophe," said Gleb Yakunin, a prominent radical deputy. "Chernomyrdin is a symbol of slowing down of applying a brake to the reforms."

Mr Chernomyrdin, 54, received over two thirds of Congress votes, well over the number needed to ensure his appointment. Only 172 of the 1,064 deputies voted against the move. Earlier in the day the assembly had placed him second choice behind Yuri Skolov, the head of the security council and considered even more conservative than Mr Chernomyrdin.

Mr Yeltsin insisted on Mr Chernomyrdin's appointment as the lesser of two evils.

The new prime minister joined the government in May

as one of a clutch of deputy prime ministers with responsibility for the energy sector, an appointment viewed at the time as a pre-emptive concession towards the industrial lobby which was pressing for greater state protection against the impact of market reforms.

His statement that he is pro-reform but against the impoverishment of the people is more significant than its superficial blandness suggests. The phrasing is shorthand for

an ideology in which the state is accorded a major role in the transition to the market, in effect inhibiting the process by keeping open unprofitable enterprises and staving off the mass-unemployment which would be an inevitable side-effect of radical changes in the economic structure.

His appointment will deeply concern the IMF and Western governments and investors, since the corollary to Civic Union's policies of loosening monetary controls and increasing state credits and investment is the risk of hyperinflation.

□ Arms sales: Igor Rogachev, the Russian ambassador to China, said in Peking yesterday that Russia will continue to sell arms to China to raise hard currency but it was aware of the need "to keep balance in the Asia Pacific region" (Catherine Sampson writes).

Last year, China bought 24 SU27 fighter jets from the Soviet Union, and there is speculation that it is now hoping for a deal involving MiG aircraft.

Gaidar's fall, page 1



Chernomyrdin will slow down reforms



Talking it over: Russian deputies discussing who should become prime minister

## MAN IN THE NEWS

### An optimist felled by vested interests

BY ANNE McELVOY

YEGOR Gaidar yesterday lost his battle to be confirmed as Russian prime minister and with it his fight to keep the country on the path of radical reform on which he embarked a year ago.

At 37 he was the youngest member of Boris Yeltsin's reform team and a symbol of the hopes that Russia could make a rapid leap from a command to a market economy. He was dogged throughout by a recalcitrant bureaucracy, an ideological backlash and his excessive optimism about how much his countrymen were prepared to suffer for reform.

Mr Gaidar's role as the architect of radical change catapulted him from obscurity to a celebrity second only to Mr Yeltsin. But it placed on him the burden of the reform programme's failures and made him the focus of the concentrated aggression of an opposition too scared to confront the president himself but baying with growing confidence for liberal blood.

Both his grandfathers were well-known writers active in the ideological debates that followed the 1917 revolution. His great-grandfather led a Bolshevik Cheka (secret service) unit and was later a rear-admiral.

A graduate of Moscow University's economics faculty, where he was considered an outstanding student, he became director of the Academy of Sciences' Institute of Economic Policy in 1991. He was treated as an economic enfant terrible by the establishment

after he responded to Mikhail Gorbachev's appeal for emergency economic programmes. His radicalism paid off when President Yeltsin took power, intent on a more drastic start to the reforms that had failed under his predecessor. Mr Gaidar entered the government in November 1991, entrusted with sole responsibility for economic policy. Heavily influenced by Jeffrey Sachs, a Harvard economics professor, he won the International Monetary Fund's support with a reform strategy emphasising price stabilisation, a balanced budget and tight monetary policy.

He showed some naivety in trying to apply textbook economic models to a complex and chaotic situation. Mr Yeltsin fought long and hard to keep him, but his impetuous outburst against Congress last week backfired, and Mr Gaidar was the casualty.



Gaidar: became focus of opposition enmity

### Cold war spoof tests Western resolve

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR  
AND BRUCE CLARKE IN MOSCOW

IN A high-risk attempt to draw attention to the anti-Western nationalism of President Yeltsin's enemies, Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, yesterday gave a 45-minute speech to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe that could have come straight from the Cold war era.

Expressing Slavic solidarity with Serbia and demanding an end to sanctions against the Serbs and threatening the independent republics of the former Soviet Union, he told the 52-nation gathering in Stockholm that Moscow might use military force and economic pressure to reassert its domination throughout the former Soviet Union. He said Russia had to defend its interests "by all available means".

After a short pause, Mr Kozyrev said that neither he nor Mr Yeltsin stood by a word of what he had said: it was a spoof of the kind of speech that would have been given had the extreme nationalists triumphed in Moscow, and represented the views they are trying to impose. "I did it for the most serious reasons so that you should all be

aware of the real threats on our road to a post-communist Europe," he said.

The point being made needed no explanation in Moscow. An influential and growing section of Russia's political class feels the country has become too compliant in its international behaviour. It favours a much harder line in dealing with the West and other former Soviet republics, as well as a revival of links with traditional friends, such as Serbia, India and possibly Iraq.

As the minister himself observed, the contents of his outburst could have been taken verbatim from the public comments of his political rivals. Indeed, they largely reflected what passes as "mainstream" thinking in the Congress of People's Deputies.

Ironically, even as Mr Kozyrev was making his spoof call for "tough discussions" on a new grouping of former Soviet states, the Congress voted overwhelmingly to support the idea of a confederation of the old republics. The legislature also voted on Saturday to consider demands for an end to the UN-imposed sanctions against Serbia.

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# Americans at odds over disarmament in Somalia

■ Silencing the guns of Baidoa is not proving as simple as protecting food convoys. Washington politicians and troops on the front line are heading for a policy clash

FROM SAM KILEY IN BAIDOA

TENSION between Somalis and American troops grew yesterday after senior US officials issued conflicting statements about whether their troops would be used to disarm gunmen as well as to escort food convoys in the famine-stricken south of the country.

Lawrence Eagleburger, the Secretary of State, confirmed at the weekend that an agreement had been reached with the United Nations that the 28,000 American soldiers, as well as contingents from other countries, would be used to "pacify" Somalia while distributing food aid. Last night Lieutenant General Robert Johnston, the marine commander of Operation Restore Hope, insisted that disarmament of the thousands of gunmen and their heavily armed Jeeps, known as "technicals", was not part of his mission. "The notion that you can disarm Somalia is an enormous challenge," he said.

In Baidoa, the centre of the famine belt where 100 people have been dying each day, aid workers were in no doubt about what foreign troops should do when they come to the city. "There is no way that the operation could be successful in the long term unless the guns are taken out of circulation," Locken Morrissey, head of Care International, which distributes relief from the UN World Food Programme, said. The Care houses and compounds have been attacked at least eight times in the past fortnight, as



Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 14

## 'Humanitarian colonialism' looms over Africa

BY SAM KILEY

COBRA helicopter gunships smacking the air overhead and zooming 20ft above the ground behind Somali battle wagons have been a breathtaking and welcome sight since their arrival in Mogadishu.

However, after the initial thrill of seeing venal teenage gunmen whose looting atrocities have stymied relief efforts since the country collapsed into anarchy, questions must be asked about the aims of the operation, and how these can be achieved. The answers could affect the continent.

The commander of the operation, US Marine Lieutenant General Robert Johnston, and Robert Oakley, Washington's envoy to Somalia, insisted yesterday that the aims of the deployment of 28,000 men, which will be completed in a week or so, are strictly "humanitarian". They said that the soldiers, told to use whatever force is necessary to protect themselves and food convoys, will do no more than that.

In the countryside, which has been sown with anti-tank mines during fighting between rival clans during the past year, the atmosphere was calm. "All the technicals who used to trouble us are now on their best behaviour and have fled into the bush where they are hiding from the Americans," Dahir Aden, mayor of Eso, a village ten miles from the front, said.

Aid workers are in agreement that to withdraw so soon would achieve little. "There is no way that you can pull out of here and just clear off after a month. If an intervention force is going to be useful, then it has to stay here until the country has been sorted out. If the US were to go after a month the whole place would just collapse again," said Locken Morrissey, head of Care International in Baidoa.

Aid workers agree that if anything is to be achieved beyond alleviating the famine, the solution must be coupled with a programme to confiscate the thousands of guns in circulation. Thus, the American forces, supported by troops from six countries, must have a mandate that allows them to stay longer. This may be the secret agenda of the Americans and the United Nations.

An announcement over the weekend that US Marines would start snatching weapons from ragged teenagers would precipitate a backlash that would mean many American soldiers would return home in body bags.

After assuring Somalis that an indefinite recolonisation is not planned, the Ameri-



Advance notice: a youth in Baidoa holding up a leaflet dropped by American planes, which shows a US Marine shaking hands with a Somalian in a peace gesture. The American-led protection force, numbering more than 4,000, has been largely welcomed by Somalis

cans would be better advised to gather in the guns, possibly paying \$100 (£64) for each weapon, followed by house-to-house searches and sweeps with metal detectors for the thousands buried.

This appears to be what the American commanders are planning and they have been embarrassed by politicians' revelations that a disarmament programme is the only way to guarantee the security of relief workers and convoys, and that means troops will have to stay on.

There is another reason for the narrow brief. The ma-

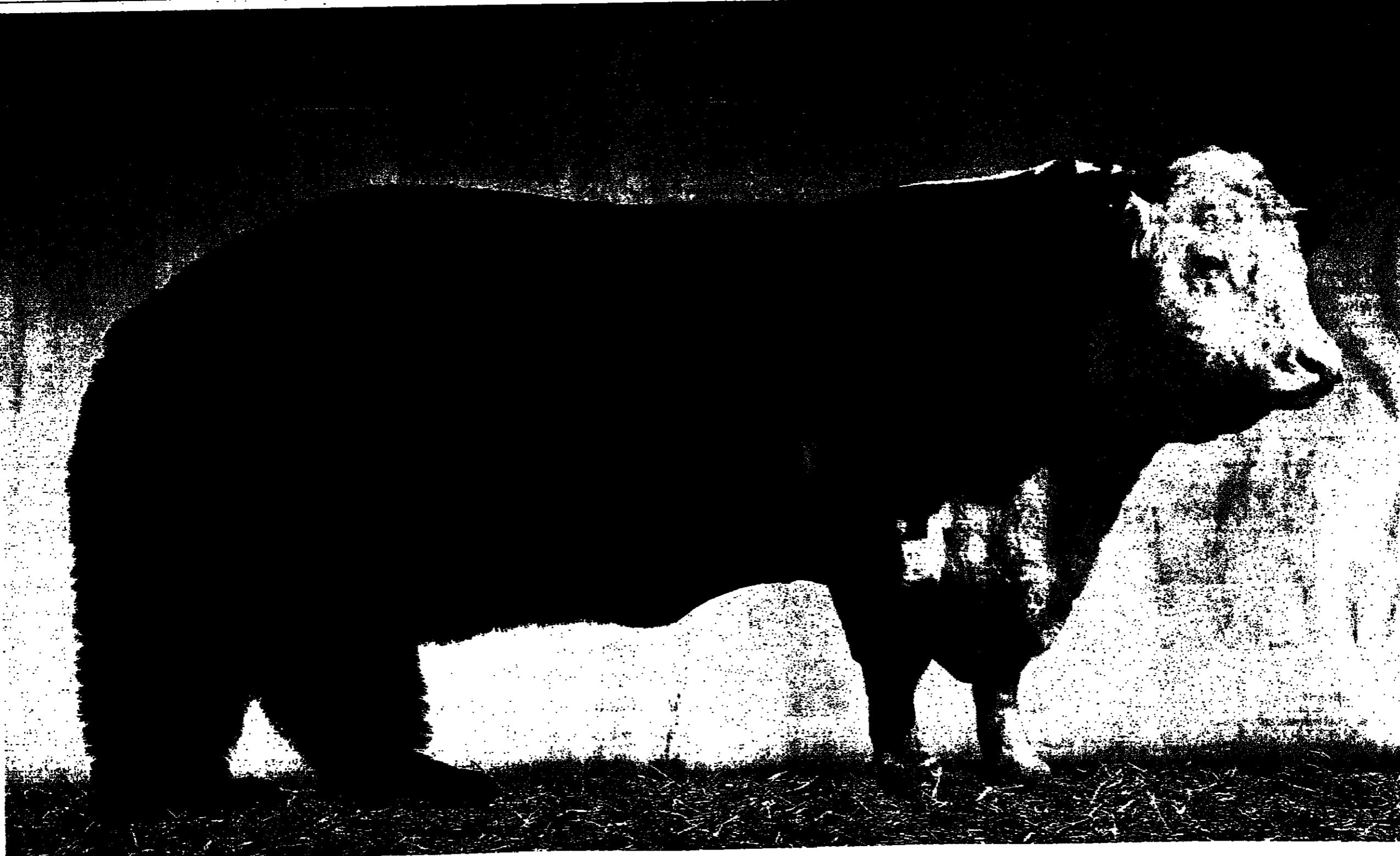
rines' deployment, sanctioned by the UN, has violated the sovereignty of Somalia and it is important to give the impression that Operation Restore Hope is a one-off.

The Organisation of African Unity has been notable in its silence on yesterday's "invasion". This is because the continent is crumbling under tribal pressures caused by boundaries drawn with a disregard for ethnicity by the outgoing colonial powers. If not, it had better brace itself for some gruesome television next year.

□ New York: Somalia's gun-wielding gunmen are invari-

ably described as "drug-crazed" on television, and the evil properties of khat, the narcotic shoot chewed by most Somali men, are seen as another reason for curbing their power. There are signs that khat, which contains a mild amphetamine, may be catching on in ghettos (Ben Macintyre writes).

In parts of Harlem and Queens, khat can be bought openly for about \$30 a kilo. "It's like cocaine," one drug dealer told *The New York Times*, "but it doesn't give you that rush and it seems to stain your teeth."



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## Murder forces Iraqis to lie low

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN CAIRO

SEVERAL Iraqi dissidents and their families have been placed under armed guard in Jordan and others have gone into hiding after last week's assassination in the capital, Amman, of a nuclear scientist from Baghdad.

Two Iraqis, one alleged to be a senior intelligence agent, are to face trial for the murder which has angered Amman and spread fear among opponents of President Saddam Hussein's regime waiting in the capital for visas. The victim, Muayad Hassan Naji al-Janabi, had applied for a visa to visit Britain and planned to resettle in Libya.

The assassination has deepened the rift between Jordan and Iraq. King Hussein had already distanced himself from Baghdad.

## West Bank sealed off in search for kidnapped Israeli

■ A Palestinian group opposed to Arafat is trying to wreck the peace talks. An Israeli policeman's life hangs in the balance

FROM BEN LYNNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI troops last night sealed off the occupied West Bank and began to make mass arrests in a hunt for Muslim fundamentalists threatening to kill an Israeli policeman they had taken hostage.

The fate of kidnapped Sergeant Major Nissim Toledano, 29, was unknown almost a day after the deadline the extremist gunmen had set for Israel to free their leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, founder of the Hamas Islamic resistance movement.

Moshe Shahal, the Israeli police minister, said the government had to know first if the paramilitary border policeman was alive. Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas' head in Jordan, said he did not know the condition of Major Toledano.

seized inside Israel on Sunday by Hamas's military wing, the Qassam unit, but said Hamas was ready to talk if Israel showed a willingness to free Yassin.

Hamas has cast a shadow over Middle East peace efforts by continuing to hold the policeman as hostage in its effort to derail Israel-Palestinian talks and eclipse Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation. Confronting Israel with its first abduction ultimatum since the beginning of the five-year Palestinian uprising, Hamas militants have threatened to kill Major Toledano unless authorities released Yassin, 57, their wheelchair-bound leader.

Yassin was sentenced to life imprisonment last year on charges of ordering the killing of an alleged Palestinian collaborator. Yassin looked frail and complained of health problems during an Israel television interview from his cell in which he pleaded that the soldier's life be spared.

The movement was founded five years ago yesterday in the Gaza Strip and its potential was grossly underestimated by military authorities who, at first, tolerated it as a counterbalance to the influence of the PLO. Its slogan is that "Islam is the solution" to Israeli occupation.

In the minds of many Israelis, the abduction conjured images more often associated with their costly involvement in Lebanon than with the occupied territories, and pointed towards a worsening of the Palestinian-Israeli



Security drive: an Israeli soldier questions a Palestinian near Ramallah during the search for an Israeli hostage

confrontation just six months after the left-centre government of Yitzhak Rabin took power on a peace platform. It followed a series of successful Hamas attacks on soldiers, including the killing of three reserves north of Gaza City last week.

For Palestinians, the kidnapping was another sign that Hamas had seized the initiative on the ground from the

secular nationalists of the PLO. Hamas believes the entire area that once constituted Palestine is a sacred Islamic trust and therefore rejects the present PLO-backed talks with Israel as a sellout. "If this momentum continues I think that unfortunately the Palestinians will be pressed to drop out of the peace talks," Ottoman Halaq, editor of the *al-Nahar* in Arab east Jerusalem

wrote. Hamas claims it enjoys the support of 45 per cent of Palestinians in the occupied territories. Its opponents do not dispute that the lack of progress in negotiations is increasing its backing.

Dr Mahmud al-Zahar, spokesman for the movement, reflected its growing confidence by advising Israel not to delay in releasing Yassin. "Israel should not put conditions

now. To ask for signs of life from the soldier would aggravate the situation."

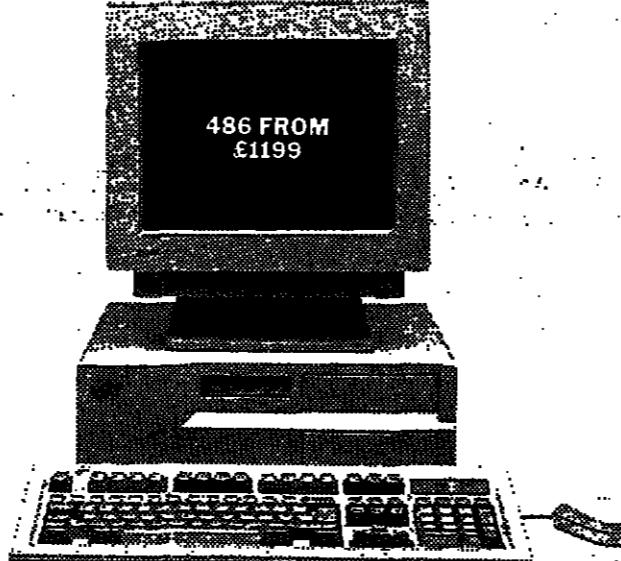
■ Algiers: Five police officers were killed when their patrol was ambushed in the Algerian capital yesterday morning. Police said five men with machine pistols fired at their vehicle in the Kouba district near a mosque frequented by fundamentalists. (AFP)

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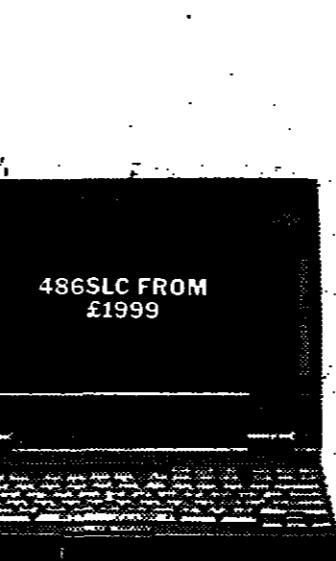
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## Clinton outlines economic targets

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ON THE day that America's electoral college formally voted to make Bill Clinton the next US president, the former Arkansas governor yesterday began building a national consensus for his plans to rebuild the economy by convening an unprecedented two-day economic summit in Little Rock, Arkansas. He suspended all further announcements of administration appointees.

Originally conceived as a private retreat for a few dozen economists and businessmen, the meeting ballooned into a media extravaganza attended by 329 people, ranging from Nobel prize-winning economists and corporate luminaries to the owner of a South Dakota flower shop. Only politicians were excluded.

Mr Clinton welcomed the conference as "the most distinguished and diverse group of Americans ever to meet to discuss our economic promise as well as our economic problems". All nine hours of the meeting were being broadcast live on television. There were even slots for the public to telephone in their ideas.

The summit's purpose was primarily symbolic. Mr Clinton has spent the past 11 months expounding his economic plan, and over the weekend aides ruled out any substantial revisions. The purpose was, in Mr Clinton's words, more "to reconnect the American people to their government", to signal a new focus on the economy after the seeming complacency of the Bush administration and to start preparing the public for some of the tough choices that lie ahead, including curbing health care costs.

Mr Clinton promised health care reform during the campaign, giving most people

the impression that they would receive more and better services, but yesterday he pointed out that health care would account for half the increase in the federal deficit over the next five years. Those costs had to be reduced.

Since the election, Mr Clinton has placed markedly less emphasis on short-term economic stimulation and his promise of a middle-class tax cut and much more on tackling America's fundamental economic problems, most notably the deficit. Interest payments on the national debt now consumed 15 cents of every tax dollar, he said. The deficit was an "economic ball and chain dragging us down".

Mr Clinton outlined four priorities in addition to ending "the cycle of borrow and spend economics". He called for much wider education and training, increased public and private investment to create jobs, an energy and environmental policy with less dependence on foreign oil and a greater willingness by all Americans "to give something back to the country".



Clinton: determined to reduce the deficit

## Fresh tremors worry Indonesia survivors

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ALMOST 1,600 bodies have been found since the earth

quake and huge tidal waves turned parts of Indonesia's eastern "isle of Flores" into a cemetery. Officials said 1,584 people were confirmed dead and many were missing. Fresh tremors were shaking Flores, terrifying survivors.

Herman Gadjidjou, an aide to Hendrikus Fernandez, the governor of East Nusa Tenggara province, which includes Flores, said the death toll was expected to rise further. "We have no figures for the missing."

In Maumere, the tremors struck about every two hours and survivors faced another night under tents. Officials urged residents not to go back into those buildings still standing. "We are all very nervous," said Gabriel Pereira, a relief centre official.

Nearly 1,300 people died in the Maumere area, 19 miles from the offshore epicentre of the earthquake, which measured 6.8 on the Richter scale. Survivors said tidal waves swamped their fishing village three times and swept away many of the 2,000 residents.

The second wave was as high as a coconut tree," said Patamu, 30, a fisherman. "The waves were hot, like lava."

The waves can travel huge distances across the oceans in a few hours. A centre in Hawaii monitors tsunamis, but on Saturday the wave had reached Flores before any warning could be issued.

THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 15 1992

# US canvasses Europe over enforcement of air ban

■ Stung by criticism of its inaction, Washington is pushing for enforcement of a "no-fly" zone over Bosnia. The British defence ministry is not so sure

BY MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Bush administration is advocating tougher action, including limited military intervention, to curb Serbian aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to prevent the conflict spreading.

Lawrence Eagleburger, the Secretary of State, attributed Washington's almost overnight conversion to the deteriorating situation in Bosnia as winter closes in. At a meeting in Stockholm yesterday of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), Mr Eagleburger sounded out governments on whether they would support a new United Nations resolution to enforce the "no-fly" zone.

Last night, the British government's military advisers remained firmly opposed to enforcing the air exclusion zone and issued a warning about the difficulty of mounting an effective operation. Although Serbian fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters based in Bosnia present only a minimal threat to Western jets, the military advice is that enforcement of the air exclusion zone would not be easy.

Another significant factor for the switch in the Bush administration policy was undoubtedly the mounting criticism of Washington inaction from a string of American leaders. In a speech in Oxford 11 days ago Ronald Reagan called for a "humane velvet glove backed by a steel fist of military force". Jimmy Carter, Henry Kissinger and George Schultz, Mr Reagan's former secretary of state, have added trenchant criticism of the allies' "empty threats" and timid response to appalling Serb atrocities. Bill Clinton, the president-elect, joined the chorus last Friday.

Mr Clinton, speaking after an intensive review of the Bosnian conflict by his aides, said it was time to "turn up the heat" on the Serbs and supported the enforcement of the "no-fly" zone by military means. That criticism may finally have enabled the US State Department to surmount the Pentagon's terror at the prospect of American troops being sucked into a Balkan "quagmire".

In Stockholm, Mr Eagleburger, who will also attend a series of high-level meetings in Geneva and Brussels this week, publicly called for the perpetrators of Serbian "crimes against humanity" to face Nuremberg-style trials for war crimes. Mr Eagleburger told American reporters on his plane that he would also discuss with allies this week the possibility of lifting the UN

arms embargo to give the Bosnians the means to defend themselves. He was also expected to press for international action to try to prevent the Bosnian conflict spreading to neighbouring Kosovo, triggering a Balkan-wide conflict, and yesterday he urged an increased CSCE presence in the autonomous province.

Bosnia was too big a disaster to "simply ignore and leave to the next administration", Mr Eagleburger said. American officials have tended to claim that Britain and France have been the obstacles to an enforcement resolution, fearing their troops on the ground would become targets, but Mr Eagleburger acknowledged there had been "arguments within the US government".

In London, military analysts estimated that the Serbs have 20 aircraft, a mixture of G4 Super Galeb (Seagulls) and J22 Oraos (Eagles), both manufactured in the former Yugoslavia. They are based at three airfields, one large and two small, around Banja Luka. However, they have not been flown in an offensive mission since October 13.

All the violations of the UN "no-fly" zone over Bosnia have involved Serbian helicopters. In Bosnia, the Serbs have 30-40 military helicopters, mostly SA341 Gazelles, armed with four Soviet-made AT3 Sagger anti-tank missiles and two SA7 Grail anti-helicopter missiles. They also have former Soviet Mi8 Hip helicopters.

Were Britain to be persuaded to join combat air patrols over Bosnia, the most likely aircraft for such an operation would be the Tornado F3, the air defence version. However, Jaguar and the Harrier GR3/7 could also be deployed from one of seven bases along Italy's eastern coast.

Responding to American criticism that European nations were dragging their feet, Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, said it was no use just saying something had to be done. "Those of us who are responsible for armed forces have to come to a judgment on whether there is a straightforward military solution."

□ Bonn Herr Christian Schwarzenberg, Germany's post and telecommunications minister, has resigned, saying he was ashamed to belong to a government that could not send troops to participate in UN peacekeeping missions in Bosnia.

Major takes helm, page 1  
Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 14  
Leading article, page 15



## Doves dominate cabinet talks on Bosnia

The British cabinet has become increasingly pessimistic about the situation in Bosnia, writes Peter Riddell



THE defence and overseas policy committee of the cabinet (known as OPD) was subdued yesterday morning. International pressure, especially from the United States and France, for the use of force to implement the United Nations "no-fly" zone over Bosnia has grown in the past few days.

Ministers knew that decisions could not be postponed indefinitely. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, was due to fly off later in the day for three meetings certain to be dominated by the former Yugoslavia, while John Major would be seeing George Bush on Friday.

Mr Major and Mr Hurd have become increasingly pessimistic about the deteriorating situation in Bosnia and the dangers of the conflict spreading to other areas. Mr Major's gloom was reinforced

during his recent visit to Athens and by his meeting with Macedonian leaders.

That led him to warn in the Commons yesterday that Macedonia "could be a tinder box for a wider Balkan conflict". Talks with other European Community leaders convinced him of the need for further discussion.

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, reported on his visit to Bosnia last week to see the British troops there. This reinforced his view that military intervention cannot halt the fighting and that

British forces should not be increased substantially but should continue with their humanitarian mission.

British ministers remain wary of any larger military commitment.

Mr Rifkind has said that British troops could become embroiled in an operation with high casualties over which they have no control. The chiefs of staff have been arguing, like their counterparts in the Pentagon, that ground troops should never be committed unless there is a precise military objective and

there are clear, and workable, rules of engagement. These do not exist in Bosnia.

There is no dispute over this within the OPD committee. Mr Hurd is certainly no hawk. At most, some Foreign Office officials believe that the international community has

take a more active stand.

These views were reflected in yesterday's discussion on the immediate issue of the enforcement of the "no-fly" zone.

Mr Hurd said Serbia could not be allowed indefinitely to defy the United Nations' authority and to

believe that the West would never take action. But the international mediators feared military action might jeopardise their efforts.

Mr Rifkind underlined worries about retaliation by the Bosnian Serbs against British troops. There is concern in London about tougher

action being urged by countries such as America, which do not themselves have troops at risk on the ground.

Yesterday's meeting endorsed a cautious step-by-step approach, starting with a report for the UN Security Council on violations of the "no-fly" zone. That will focus on what constitutes a violation of the existing UN resolution: whether Bosnian Serb helicopters are carrying troops and military equipment.

This might be followed by a further United Nations resolution permitting the enforcement of the ban on flights.

The aim would be to warn off the Bosnian Serbs rather than to trigger immediate shooting down of helicopters. It is likely that aircraft enforcing such a ban might be American planes based in Italy.

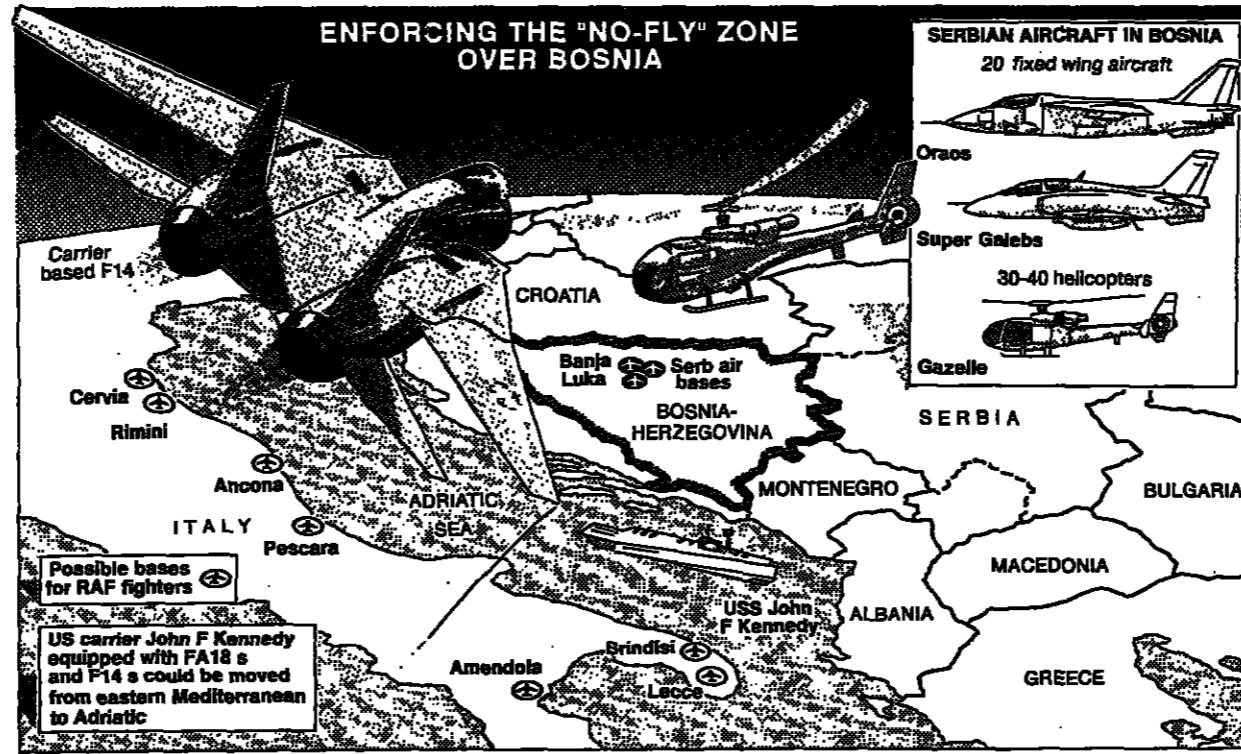
No further British troop deployments are planned. This issue is separate from the proposed dispatch of a battalion of soldiers to Macedonia to monitor the peace there.

Decisions on a new UN resolution are unlikely until after this week's round of meetings. Mr Major's talks with President Bush and the Serbian elections.

Mr Major and senior ministers have moved, tentatively, towards a firmer line in the past couple of weeks. But, reflecting the mood at Westminster, their position is far from warlike.

Paddy Ashdown, who was himself directly in the firing line in Bosnia yesterday, is one of the few leading British politicians urging greater military involvement. Apart from general statements of condemnation, the Labour leadership has focused on the refugees and avoided urging the increased use of force.

There may be a greater demand internationally for "something to be done", but so far it stops well short of risking many British lives.



## French cheers of disdain greet Edinburgh accord

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS AND ANATOL LIEVEN IN BOHN

FRANCE yesterday greeted the repair job performed at the Edinburgh summit with a mixture of weary relief and disdain for what some saw as a sell-out to the anti-European demands of Denmark and Britain.

Media commentators from both left and right depicted the Edinburgh accords as a desperate and inglorious patch-up by chastened leaders desperate to avoid rupture. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former president and architect of European integration in the 1970s, led hostile reaction from the opposition, saying sarcastically that Edinburgh had been "a great success for British diplomacy and a failure for the Franco-German approach to Europe".

France and Germany had surrendered at the outset to the pressure to give Denmark everything it wanted and stripped the Maastricht treaty of its meaning, he said. "We didn't want a two-speed Europe. Now we're going to have a Europe of four speeds."

"Europe in hibernation", said the headline in the conservative *Quotidien de Paris*. The conservative, populist *France-Soir* said the outcome in Edinburgh looked like an attempt to force reconciliation on a feuding couple, which

was better than divorce "as long as they don't try to make us endure the comedy of a second honeymoon".

Determination "to save the face of Maastricht", said the conservative *Le Figaro*, had caused the other leaders "to give in to Denmark all the way down the line". The left-wing *Libération* took a less bleak view, saying the Edinburgh agreements showed that the "force towards European unity still slightly outweighs the impetus towards retreat behind national or even cantonal frontiers".

The authoritative *Le Monde* summed up what it said was the lesson from Edinburgh: "When economic gloom is fuelling all the Community machinery, when the markets are running scared, when a discredited Europe sits impotent before Yugoslavia, when public opinion draws inwards with fright and when several governments are heading towards elections, even at these worst of times, the Community still has enough vigour to save itself." *Le Monde* was one of the few French papers to give credit to John Major's diplomacy. The credit he had deserved would help him win over the sceptics at home, it said.

Mr Major has been

described as "Europe's faith healer" in the German press, specifically the *Stuttgarter Zeitung*, for his work in salvaging the Edinburgh summit. "London's presidency is saved", claimed the *Handelsblatt* business paper, saying that it should restore some of Mr Major's crumbling authority.

The German government is also claiming credit for success, and are pointing out that Germany succeeded in gaining almost all the points where its own interests were affected. Klaus Kinkel, the foreign minister, said that it was Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, who saved the summit: a propaganda statement, but also perhaps a dig at the British press, whose statements that Herr Kohl "let down Britain" have caused annoyance here.

The Germans' fear of themselves and what they might do if the EC collapsed is at the heart of German anxiety for it to succeed. Herr Kohl has been rightly described in several papers as the true heir of Konrad Adenauer, obsessed by the need for reconciliation with France as the basis for European unity.

Woodrow Wyatt, page 14  
Diary, page 14

## Treaty deal delights battle-weary Danes

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

RELIEF swept Denmark yesterday in the wake of the Edinburgh summit's endorsement of an opt-out deal on the Maastricht treaty.

Industry, agriculture and the unions and the employers' federation all welcomed Denmark's deadlock with the European Community and expressed hope for a swift ratification of the treaty. The stock and bond markets recovered as did the embattled Danish krona after days of turbulence caused by the flotation of Norway's currency last week.

Poul Schlüter, the prime minister, said yesterday that a date for a fresh referendum on Europe would be set in the new year. "I hope it will be possible to agree on the date by the middle of January, when parliament reconvenes after the Christmas recess," he said. "I expect the necessary Maastricht ratification legislation to be tabled in the House in January or February. I promised Denmark's 11 European Community partners at Edinburgh that we would carry out a referendum in the first half of 1993." Mr Schlüter added: "We owe this especially to our British friends who also have their own problems getting the Maastricht treaty ratified."

Mr Schlüter will meet leaders of the six other Danish parties supporting the so-called "national compromise" to discuss the deal.

The opt-out agreement exempts Denmark from Community plans for a joint defence policy, a common currency, EC citizenship and co-ordinated legal co-operation. The compromise is supported by seven of parliament's eight political parties, including the Conservative-Liberal minority coalition and the opposition Social Democrats, Radical Liberals and Socialist People's Party. The three opposition parties — architects of Denmark's new European Community deal — announced their formal approval of the package on Sunday night.

An opinion poll published yesterday in the conservative daily newspaper *Berlingske Tidende* indicated that 54 per cent would vote in favour of Denmark's new deal in a referendum, with 23 per cent opposed and the same percentage undecided. Political analysts predicted that April or May were the most likely dates for a second referendum. Denmark takes over the six-month rotating Community presidency from Britain on January 1.

## League squeezes coalition in Italian litmus test poll

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN VARESE

THE devolutionist northern Leagues inflicted another humiliating electoral defeat on traditional Italian parties yesterday as Italians expressed a year-end show of low confidence in the embattled coalition government in Rome.

First results with half the votes counted in "litmus test" municipal elections at the strategic town of Varese eight miles from the Swiss border gave the Lombardy League first place with 36.39 per cent of the vote, squeezing the traditionally dominant Christian Democrats to 18.3 per cent. The party of Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, has been badly compromised by a rash of local government corruption scandals in Varese, and its share tumbled to 4 per cent of the vote there.

The new anti-Mafia party, La Rete, led by former Mayor of Palermo, Leoluca Orlando, made striking gains with 5 per cent in Varese and the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement improved its position with 4.8 per cent.

"The old political system is in free fall," said Roberto Maroni, a League M.P. The partial results fell below the high expectations of League sympathisers who had hoped for absolute majorities that would allow them to control

town councils at Varese and Monza.

However, political experts emphasised that the League's victory marked an increase of about 9 per cent for the federalists over the outcome in the April general election.

Ironically the Lombardy League score might have been higher if Signor Umberto Bossi, the leader, had not been challenged by a look-alike separatist state headed by his estranged sister, the Alpine Lombard League, which won 4 per cent.

"We will start negotiations immediately to form a municipal government," said Signor Maroni. "The new mayor of Varese will be from the Lombard League." League strategists hope to form an alliance of convenience with the former Communist Democratic party of the Left, which fell to 7 per cent, or the Libertarian Radical party.

League leaders acknowledged there was the risk that they would be "left in the refrigerator" by other parties with no coalition feasible as happened after other, relatively smaller, League triumphs at Mantua and Brescia in the past. "If they have not given us enough strength to guarantee a junta in Varese they can't say we didn't warn them,"

growled Signor Bossi as he paced around his headquarters in the Piazza Garibaldi of Varese. "If the other parties want new elections they have to realise we are increasing our share at every poll."

The massive protest vote in the polls, involving one million voters, underlined once again the desperate need for reform of the Italian proportional system if the risk of ultimate disintegration of the country is to be avoided, pundits have said.

The Lombard League were also placed first at Monza, the motor racing capital, with 33 per cent, according to early results. Meanwhile in the southern port of Reggio Calabria exit polls showed that the Christian Democrats had fallen from 31 to 22 per cent, the Socialists from 13 to 9 per cent. La Rete took a projected 4 per cent and the neo-Fascists 14 per cent.

■ Rome: Employees of two United Nations agencies are planning a one-day strike today to demand higher salaries, a spokesman said. Staff at the Rome-based UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and World Food Programme plan the action as protest over what they say are pay disparities with other agencies. (Reuters)

## OVERSEAS NEWS 11

### NEWS IN BRIEF

America pledges to punish war criminals

London: Lawrence Eagleburger, the American Secretary of State, yesterday warned Belgrade that war criminals in former Yugoslavia would be hunted down and brought to justice in the way Nazis were tried at Nuremberg. Michael Biryon and David Bartal write.

He told the opening session in Stockholm of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe: "We must identify the perpetrators of crimes against humanity in ex-Yugoslavia by name and ensure they will be brought to justice in person — exactly as were Hitler's associates at Nuremberg."

He also called for an increase in the CSCE forces monitoring the stand-off in Kosovo, saying America was ready to contribute. The United Nations Security Council is likely to postpone a decision on a tribunal until the war crimes commission for the Balkans completes its study.

### Patten backed

Hong Kong: An opinion poll shows that almost half the colony's citizens back the democracy proposals of Chris Patten, the governor. Out of a sample group of 954 people polled by the *Southern China Morning Post*, 46.9 per cent said they would vote in favour.

### Reactor started

Kiev: A second reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, site of the world's worst nuclear accident six years ago, has been brought back on stream pending the plant's complete shutdown next year, the Ukrinform news agency reported. (Reuters)

### Driver jailed

Paris: The driver of a train, which ploughed into the Gare de Lyon station, killing 56 people, was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to four years in prison, 3½ suspended. Daniel Saulin was one of four people on trial for the 1988 crash. (Reuters)

# Job for life? Live for a job

PAUL BROWN

The Princess of Wales has given up the job of being a royal wife, but hangs on to the possibility of being the mother of a King. Losing role and status is one of the most devastating consequences of redundancy. Not being wanted at work can cause similar desperation to not being wanted as a wife or husband. Being based on loss, both have interesting similarities to grief after death. There are also important differences.

Death has its own finality. The reactions of disbelief, feeling that time is suspended, the rage, despair, hopelessness and emptiness are the *sequela* common to redundancy and death. Yet somewhere within the mind, we know that there is absolutely nothing that can be done to reverse the ending of a life. It is this which triggers the proper processes of mourning and creates the shift to acceptance of the inevitable.

In redundancy, however, there is no such finality.

The person or people who have caused one's loss remain alive and well. Their jobs remain, as do all the trappings that position and authority provide.

The rage that results from badly-managed redundancy can create murderous fantasies. Setting up in competition and "killing off" the source of the pain is one displacement activity through which commercialism justifies the darker underlying motive, as does joining the opposition with "I'll show them" as the unwritten part of the new contract.

What is lost to the redundant executive is not only income and the trappings of office, but that vital sense of identity and well-being which comes from work. It can feel like the death of self.

For many people, their job defines their existence. A doctor may be loved by his patients, yet have impoverished relationships at home; a managing director expects the same unquestioning back-up from his wife as he commands on a salaried basis from his secretary.

The identity they get from work tells them who they are. Many men are only happy meeting strangers at dinner when conversation has managed to elicit exactly what the stranger does: not who he is but what he does.

Redundancy and its threat calls defences into play. Flight can make a person hang on too long. More secretly, fear that creates a sense of flight can make the person deny there is anything wrong at all. Many employees see the prospect of redundancy, but deny the inevitable as long as possible.

Some evidence shows that when redundancies are beginning to be an option for a company, the good people — those the firm needs for its long-term resilience — are the ones who dare to pick up the weak signals and leave voluntarily and early. They are least afraid of looking after themselves in a hostile market place. The firm is then left to plan its future on the less resilient among the workforce.

Underlying personality processes come into play here. There are those who by nature stabilise organisations and are essentially supportive. They fundamentally dislike change in the order of things. Such people are often to be found in the personnel and financial or strategic planning side of companies. Thus, those who ought to be thinking most creatively about change in difficult times will be those who operate most conservatively.

There are also those who are temperamentally well adapted to change, and like to be where the action is. They leave. The company then suffers lost opportunity and the expense of hiring the same kind of people all over again.

The most dangerous defensive reaction to redundancy is frolic. Beware well-meaning friends who encourage it, satisfying their own needs vicariously.

The time for cruises around the world or painting the house is when the next job has been landed. A proper order of priority is about dealing with the world as it is, not as fantasy would have it.

Reality can be hard to bear, though. Perhaps Jerome K Jerome got it more right than most: "I like work; it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours. I love to keep it by me; the idea of getting rid of it nearly breaks my heart."

• The author is a consulting chartered clinical and occupational psychologist.

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Victoria McKee reports on new research on good, bad and dangerous dieting



Picture of health? those who coexist with their bulges, like Henry Moore's Reclining Woman, seem likely to live longer than people constantly fighting to lose a few pounds

## Good losers are not always winners

that Dr Welbourne suggests. "A new edition will be in the shops in January," Ms Conley says, "in which I have included fatty fish because I realised it wasn't going to have a destructive effect."

Dr Bouloux questions calling very low calorie diets such as the Cambridge diet "acceptable" — even under medical supervision. "I work with very obese people, who require their jaws wiring together to stop eating, but I wouldn't advocate a diet

system. "It's not a diet — it's to aid digestion. I suggest that if you're eating fish, chicken or meat it's a good idea to have greenery and fruit with them, but to save the potatoes, bread, pasta and rice for another meal. They can also be eaten with greenery and fruit. When you put protein and carbohydrate in the body at the same time, the enzyme systems will digest the proteins first and ignore the carbohydrate, which becomes undigested body fat and turns into middle-aged spread."

The greatest danger, the medical profession is beginning to agree, comes from "yo-yoing" up and down in weight. "There is quite a lot of evidence now supporting that," Dr Welbourne says.

"Looking at American males on coronary heart disease prevention programmes, the groups ofubby 50-60-year-old chaps who lost weight had a higher death rate than the control groups that didn't diet, but whether this is to do with the psychological stress of dieting or the actual weight loss is difficult to tell."

A 12-year study of 12,000 men at Harvard University found that those who regularly lost and gained weight — even if their weight only actually changed by as little as 1 lb pounds — were one and a half times more likely to die than the men who did not lose and gain.

Dr Reuben Andres, an expert on morbidity and mortality as it relates to weight at the US National Institutes of Health, discovered that those who tend to put on a small amount of weight as the years go by survive best and that "yo-yo" dieting seems to put a greater strain on the system than carrying a moderate amount of excess weight. In Britain, Dr David Weeks, found that a characteristic shared by super-fit older people was a stability of weight, even if that weight

was above the recommended norm. "I'm not against losing weight," Dr Welbourne says, "but against the sort of diets that make it likely that people will binge, since crash diets are perceived by the body as famine and how you survive through a famine is to store fat when you can. You can't lose more than about a pound and a half of adipose tissue [fat] in a week — any more is bound to be muscle. Muscle goes quickly, and fat is laid on, so that chronic dieters develop a higher percentage of fat and slower metabolism, and find it increasingly difficult to lose weight. But exercise can help to alter the metabolic pathways and some people can improve their metabolism via exercise if they work at it."

Tomorrow at 9 pm, Channel 4's *Dispatches* investigates the billion pound diet industry and suggests that there is increasing evidence that dieting can be worse for the health than the annual Christmas over indulgence. It offers the depressing news for Britain's millions of chronic dieters that 95 per cent of diets fail in the long-term.

A "new wave" of weight control organisations have sensed the changing mood and are promising a "Weigh Ahead", as one is called, without dieting. Dr Cherie Martin, who started Weigh Ahead as Weight Winners in Glasgow, now has branches in Edinburgh and London.

They follow Dr Welbourne's thinking that overweight people should throw away their diet sheets and learn to distinguish between hunger and appetite — at £199 plus VAT for a four day course or once a week for seven weeks, is this simply paving the way for a new type of tyranny? "No," Dr Martin says. "It's giving people back control over their eating habits."

She would support Dr Welbourne's advice that over Christmas it is better to enjoy that mince pie or portion of Christmas pudding when it is offered. "Take it, take time to really taste it, and allow yourself to have more if you really want to," Dr Welbourne counsels — than to resentfully resist and end up scoffing leftovers secretly in the kitchen.

"What people really want is to be able to re-set the metabolism centre in the brain, the hypothalamus," Dr Bouloux suggests. "Drug companies are already working on that."

LAST week a terminally-ill cancer patient in America was treated with a new form of gene therapy, designed to make his brain tumour shrink. It will be several weeks before it is clear whether this revolutionary technique works, though it has proved effective in animal experiments.

The cancer treatment is one mark of the accelerating pace of gene therapy in treating a wide range of diseases. America has taken the lead, but two British proposals are now before the Committee on the Ethics of Gene Therapy. If approved, the first British gene transplants could begin next year.

■ As the cancer treatment indicates, gene therapy is not necessarily restricted to genetic diseases, though they are its most obvious application. Genetic diseases are caused by faults in one or more of the 100,000 genes that make up the human blueprint. Each gene has the task of making a particular protein; so a fault can mean that a protein vital to the functioning of some organ or other is not produced, leading to disease. If the gene can be replaced, then a cure may be possible.

■ The first gene therapy experiment was of this type. A four-year-old girl in America suffering from a genetic defect that prevented

her immune system from producing a vital enzyme, adenosine deaminase (ADA), was injected with about one billion of her own blood cells which had been altered to contain the correct gene. Since the therapy began in September 1990, she has been well and living a normal life. A second girl has since been treated, with equally encouraging results.

■ Other genetic diseases which may be treated in a similar way include cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy. A gene flaw that prevents the body processing chloride properly causes cystic fibrosis. It leads to a build-up of mucus in the lungs and leaves its victims prone to infections. A variety of methods have been suggested for introducing normal genes into the lungs of patients.

One to be tried by Dr Ronald Crystal at the US National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, is to incorporate the gene into the

common cold virus and infect the patients with it. The virus is modified so that it will not cause a cold, but will invade target cells carrying the correct gene. The hope is that the cells will then function properly.

■ An alternative method will be used by Professor Bob Williamson of St Mary's Hospital, in London, working with Dr Duncan Geddes, of the Royal Brompton Hospital, if they get approval. They will use a mist of fat particles, called liposomes, to carry the genes into the lungs, a method which may raise fewer safety issues than using a virus.

■ Against cancer a different approach will be used. In the American therapy which began last week at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, modified mouse cells were injected into an inoperable brain tumour. The modified cells produce a retrovirus containing a gene from the herpes virus.

A retrovirus is used because it belongs to a class of viruses that can only invade dividing cells. Since brain cells do not divide but tumour cells do, it will invade the tumour cells, carrying with it a small fragment of the gene of the herpes virus: not enough to cause the infection, but enough to make the cancer cells produce an enzyme that makes them a sitting target for the antiviral drug ganciclovir. If it works as it does in rats, the tumour cells should be killed while normal brain cells remain unharmed.

■ None of these techniques will involve germ cells — those found in the eggs, sperm and early embryo — so changes will not be passed to the next generation. Most gene therapy cells are at present too great to justify.

■ Yet in spite of the great hopes, not all is sweetness and light. Funding for another pioneering gene therapy experiment in the US designed to treat cancer has been stopped after the scientist responsible, Dr Steven Rosenberg, was criticised for continuing work as intended.

NIGEL HAWKES

THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 15 1992

# Haggling's a bad deal in stores

Could London shops discover the lost joys of bargaining? Armed with a wad of fresh tenners, Heather Kirby investigates

**H**aggling is the latest sales gimmick in some shops in New York, introduced in a last ditch attempt to beat the recession and separate Christmas shoppers from their money.

Assistants use their initiative and if customers make a reasonable offer, they can accept it. It is an enterprising concept but are the shops in the British capital ready to embrace it?

At Power Store in Tottenham Court Road, an assistant showed willing. Almost before I had finished asking for a reduction on the extra large Sony television for £799, he offered 20 per cent off. Using the excuse that my mental arithmetic is not brilliant, I asked him to write it down. He helpfully gave me the model number and, less helpfully, a new price of £720. Even I know that is not a 20 per cent reduction.

Further along the road, at Heals, the windows were decked with boards offering substantial reductions on table lamps, so there did not seem much point trying to haggle about them, but upstairs, a fetching Cerruti towelling robe looked like a promising Christmas present, if I could get it for less than the £165 price tag. "We don't discounts unless you are trade or something," an assistant said.

Downstairs, I provided amusement for a young shop assistant, and the two women staff he was flirting with, by interrupting to offer £15 for a £19.95 umbrella stand. They sniggered, and a fellow shopper looked shocked, but at my behaviour, not theirs.

Next door, at Boots, I wanted to buy some Bourjois face powder, but their last box looked battered. The assistant agreed it had probably been opened by a customer, so I said they should give me a reduction, to which she curiously replied, "No. The manufacturers will take it back." I did not buy it. Presumably, there is some economic logic which is incomprehensible to retailers, but escapes me, that makes returning a box of powder more acceptable than having cash in the till, even at £1 less than its usual price.

At Lilywhites' golf department, a luxurious navy, red and white Lynx golf bag looked like an ideal gift for

Offering more than I thought it was worth, I asked 'Would you take £50 for it?'

She was dumbstruck

struck. Upping the ante slightly, then I suggested £80.

All at once, the training she had received at the Great British School of Shop Assistants, where they learn how to be really loony with customers, came to her rescue. "We are more next door." I think she was trying to tell me something, because the only cushions I could find next door were tapestry ones and started at £102.

My best haggling experience was at Hamleys'. There, on the fourth floor, was a rocking horse. The assistant told me it was £600. "What about £500 cash?" I asked.

I mean, once the word was out, where would you stop? one wanted to know. "You'd have to have a bottom line price," another said. All very well, the third said. "But people would be well vexed if they found someone else had paid less than them."

Then they said, actually, that happens already. In their experience, buyers and managers mark things down constantly, sometimes because they see them on sale at a rival store at a lower price, and also if they want to make way for new stock. But, no, they didn't think they would raise it at the next staff management meeting, because if such meetings were held, they would never be invited to attend. I got out at the Oriental carpet department. Since haggling is a way of

giving me, that I should come back on Boxing



On the carpet: the Orient may be the home of the barter, but the Oriental carpet department at Liberty's store in Regent Street drives a hard bargain for its rugs

life in the rugs' country of origin, surely it would be acceptable here?

A couple who had four beautiful stair carpets laid out on the floor for them to choose from thought so. The woman told me: "We are buying two rugs as well, so we are definitely going to try and beat the price down."

But when I offered an assistant £20 for a sequin cushion which was priced at £24.95, she did not want to take me up on it. She looked down her nose and said, "There are more next door." I think she was trying to tell me something, because the only cushions I could find next door were tapestry ones and started at £102.

My best haggling experience was at Hamleys'. There, on the fourth floor, was a rocking horse. The assistant told me it was £600. "What about £500 cash?" I asked.

He wanted to get the manager who told me the rocking horse was really £499, which just goes to show. We went to look at another, bigger, rocking horse which cost £699. It was handmade and beautiful. "I'll give you £500 for it, cash," I said.

He smiled the wan smile of a man who has felt the sharp end of the recession. "We have already reduced it from £800." But I wondered if he might weaken confronted by someone counting out £500 fresh from the cash dispenser.

Not many shop assistants are given the opportunity to use their initiative. At Selfridge's, where I tried to beat them down on a Miele dishwasher priced at £825, the assistant suggested sympathetically that I should come back on Boxing

day and the price would probably be £60 to £70 less. "I can't do any deals with you, it's not allowed," he said. But the idea tickled him and he chuckled.

In the next department, where they had a range of cappuccino coffee-making machines, I displayed my open purse to tempt the assistant. "Look, this is exactly what I want but it is far too expensive. I'll give you £110." The one I was pointing to was £134.95.

"There are plenty of other cheaper models," she said, dismissively.

Perhaps it is me. Am I too different? I marched along the Burlington Arcade and strode confidently into a shop with cashmere wall to wall. I spent 15 minutes looking at ten different styles and colours of sweater, ranging in price from £134.50 to £160.

Eventually, I said I would take two but not at those prices, and what could they offer? The glamorously made-up assistants eyed each other. "I think we could take £10 off," the older one said. "Off each, presumably?" I shot back. There was a slight hesitation before she agreed.

Since I thought she was still being a cheapskate, I decided to press on. "If you will sell me them for £350, I will buy three." No, they decided, they couldn't possibly do that, their sweaters were not even that cheap in the sales. Since I could not believe this, I feel there must be something about my haggling technique I am not getting right. I wish I had a seasoned haggle with me. I won-

der if someone in New York has devised a training course?

No amount of training would overcome the Harrods computer barrier. Gazing at myself in a black suede and leather fake fur-lined car coat, I asked the assistant if we could do a deal. The ticket price was £749, how about £700 for cash?

"We use the barcode so it all goes through a central computer. There are so many staff, if we all could do deals we would be doing them for our friends. I don't think Harrods would wear that."

The smooth-talking salesman at the Knightsbridge jewellers Kutchinsky, on the other hand, suggested he could "do something" before I asked. Looking at a tray of signet rings with the swing ticket marked £875, he offered, after tapping into his calculator, to engrave initials and add one or two diamonds for £780 cash.

At Ciro's, another Knightsbridge jewellers, where I pretended to want a watch for my daughter, they turned down flat my offer of £70 for an £85 watch. "We don't do discounts at all," the assistant said.

Generally speaking, "deals" on offer for cash in London are no big deal. Considering they are saving themselves the credit card companies' charges and are helping their cash flow, you would think stores could afford to be more generous. At Mappin & Webb, a display case was unlocked and I cradled a jeweller-encrusted evening bag in my hand. It was £2,200. The sales lady smoothly offered 10 per cent off for cash, but £1,980 still sounds like a lot for something to keep your lipstick in.

Those who wear three-piece suits negotiate, but those in anoraks haggle. Whatever the euphemism for bargaining, half of America is at it.

Bargaining is easy, so long as the shopper makes his or her assault in the right place. In the Wiz, a huge chain of discount electronics stores in New York, haggling is quite the thing. Some sadness when faced with the price of a Panasonic fax or a Sony mini-tape recorder results in an instant \$20 or \$30 reduction. The shop, with just a little pressure, is forced to live up to its slogan "Nobody beats the Wiz". Street vendors and country antiques sellers just outside New York when asked "Can you do something for us on the price?" favour the instant cave-in.

In more sophisticated emporia, however, bazaar behaviour is not quite so appreciated. Suggesting at Saks Fifth Avenue that a \$500 leather and canvas travel bag might be more palatable with a \$50 discount meets with a stony smile. It seems that rumours of the grand department stores of the city are willing to compromise here and there are quite unfounded.

Two dragging years of recession tended to encourage flexibility in pricing, but sales figures for late November and early December show American consumer confidence is on the rise, and flexibility in pricing has decreased in proportion.

In expensive, supposedly sophisticated department stores, the choice is between embarrassment at refusal, or a bargain. Before the Christmas rush, and the buoyancy which accompanied the election in November, bargains were easier to find. Now the salesperson would rather take the customer behind you in the queue than waste time on negotiation.

Macy's — "The World's Largest Store" — has had constant one-day sales since it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, but its policy on bargaining remains firm.

"You pay the price on the ticket or you don't buy the item. That's our policy on haggling," says the store's spokeswoman. Bloomingdale's and Saks are similarly strict. Of course, deals do go on. A customer complains that a leather bag is a little tarnished, or a white dress has a dark mark on it, and the floor manager agrees a reduction.

Stores selling large electrical items such as fridges and washing machines are often willing to compromise, although customers find that out only if they take the risk. Sears have an official policy of sticking to the ticket price, but in fact a customer buying two large items can expect a discount if he or she gets up the courage to ask. Arriving with a newspaper advertisement from a competitor always encourages accommodation on price, and paying cash rather than by credit card is cheaper for the shop which is often willing to pass on the savings to the customer.

## Look what happened on the way to my date with destiny

Larry Kramer's latest soul-searching play was intended to be a posthumous autobiography

**T**he best playwrights like to expose their souls on stage, but in his latest play Larry Kramer, who is also America's foremost AIDS activist, might well have handed the audience a teaspoon and said: "Scoop out the contents of my head."

When Mr Kramer's London psychiatrist, on whose couch he spent seven years, heard about the play, he observed: "Sounds like Larry learnt something."

Mr Kramer's latest offering, *The Destiny of Me*, opened to strong reviews and packed houses in New York last month. What the critics described as "a Jewish homosexual *Long Day's Journey Into Night*" now set to run well into next year when it will also be staged in London.

The play is a Freudian's delight, being largely the auto-biographical tale of Mr Kramer's eventual acceptance of his homosexuality, and featuring parents-from-hell. It not only includes a split personality, but allows the two sides of the split to get on stage together. At the play's core is Ned Weeks, a homosexual in his fifties who is HIV positive, looking for a miracle cure, and not expecting to find it.

Mr Kramer is also HIV positive and is 57 years old. He is aware the miracle will not be forthcoming soon, but



Naked truth: Larry Kramer has displayed a willingness to gut family and self

he has done more than almost anyone to make sure that the medical establishment looks for it. Hard. He set up Gay Men's Health Crisis and the powerful civil disobedience and lobby group ACT-UP (the Aids Coalition to Unleash Power) which counts among its "successes" the occasion on which 4,500 activists stormed St Patrick's cathedral in New York, chained themselves to the pews and held a "die in" at the feet of the cardinal.

His play is as angry — and funny — as some of the demonstrations he has engineered. But it has a nakedness, a willingness to gut family and self, that his previous play, *The Normal Heart*, did not risk so much. Why? Because Mr Kramer thought he would be dead by the time *The Destiny of Me* was staged. "I figured it would

be the last words of an opinionated author," says Mr Kramer, in his apartment in Greenwich Village. "I wasn't in any hurry to get the play on originally, but then when I had a health scare with my liver and this HIV business in one ugly package, I decided, 'OK, I want to pull this out while I have my energy and my health.'

He intended to leave word that the play should not be presented while his 93-year-old mother was alive. Now, given time by a medication that returned him to fairly good health, Mr Kramer is dreading the day she decides to leave her nursing home and come to the city for a viewing. His brother, Arthur, says the account of the family's life is "regretably" rather accurate. Mr Kramer has changed the

great many, still believed homosexuality could be "cured", and the closet was packed to bursting. Much of this is seen through the vehicle of his younger self who appears alongside the older version on stage.

This character came into being when Mr Kramer started talking to himself over a decade ago. He does not consider this madness; psychoanalysis has made him comfortable with this form of discourse. He saw value in it. "I found myself talking to a young boy and then I realised the boy was me, but a completely different individual with his own thoughts and character. We would often disagree. Then I began writing down scenes between the two of us, began liking my younger self, and I wrote the kid's journey in the play, the journey towards his death."

The journey passes from "discovery to guilt to momentary joy and towards AIDS". As awful and agonising as it is, it has brought with it depth and wisdom. In a recent article in *The New York Times* he wrote:

"My homosexuality, as unsatisfying as much of it was for so long, has been the single most defining characteristic in my life."

Mr Kramer pauses to take a call from Barbara Streisand's assistant who wants 12 copies of *The Normal Heart* script because Ms Streisand plans to put it on screen. A British Arena crew is making a film about Mr Kramer's life to be shown early next year. (His psychiatrist from London — where Mr Kramer spent much of the 1960s — refused to be interviewed for the documentary on ethical grounds, much, it seems, to the writer's disappointment.) A little bit of fame here and there delights him.

The angry, obnoxious, loud-mouthed Mr Kramer, the caricature of someone else's play *Normal Heart*, the scourge of talk shows, the needle of the Bush administration, seems to have gone quiet.

After an argument, Mr Kramer has mostly left ACT-UP to the younger generation, feeling that there is little more he — or they — can do. "One thing that comes with knowing your days are numbered is that you say, 'OK, I'm gonna edit my life now, and you

don't waste time with idiots.' He has decided to concentrate on finishing his latest novel and has rented a house near the beach in East Hampton to escape to. Royalties from his books and plays and even his script for the Ken Russell film, *Women in Love*, mean he is self sufficient.

Tonight he is on fine form, but there are days when he gets depressed. Who would not? In the past ten years, he has attended too many funerals. Some of his friends who are HIV positive find their

struggle a lot harder. Mr Kramer is not sure whether therapy, a comfortable life or just plain gusiness make it easier for him.

"I don't feel negative. I put myself on the shoulder that we all got through 12 years of Reagan-Bush without slitting our wrists. That says something about the indomitable nature of the human soul that you can have faith and optimism even in the face of all the evidence to the contrary."

KATE MUIR

## NOTICE

In 1987, items taken on the wreck of the TITANIC were landed on French territory in Lorient.

Pursuant to its laws, the French State is applying the procedure which allows assigns of the shipwrecked to secure restitution of these items.

Interested persons may immediately contact:

— either in United Kingdom

58 Knightsbridge

LONDON SW1X 7ST

— or the Secrétariat d'Etat à la Mer in Paris

Direction de la Flotte de Commerce

3, Place de Fontenoy

75007 PARIS

They will find all the necessary information, at the above-mentioned locations, regarding the procedure and the evidence required for proving the claims, as well as a list of the items and a form for the request for restitution.

A set of photographs may be inspected on location.

Potential requesting parties are reminded of the fact that they must send in their request with a period of 3 months from the date of publication of this notice.

— establish proof of ownership.

— participate in the costs of finding the items.



Lynne Truss

### ■ Why do most women feel the urge to throw away the sports pages?

A few years ago, I met a dynamic woman who told me she was keen to launch a new daily paper aimed at a female readership. Unfortunately for the ensuing discourse, our meeting took place at the wrong end of a highly boozy book-award dinner, at that devious point in the evening when you start to pass out in your chair, and think, "That's nice, everyone's a bunny rabbit." So when this charismatic woman mentioned the newspaper idea, I couldn't think how to react, except with boundless enthusiasm. "Great," I shouted, so loudly that other people looked round. "Brilliant, I mean, brilliant," I added, in a whisper, and knocked back another glass of port as if to show how brilliant I thought it really was. "Er, how would it be different exactly? What would you put in?" Well, the main thing is this," she said. "It's what you take out." I smiled in a vague what's-she-talking-about kind of way, and concentrated for a couple of minutes on trying to rest my chin on my hand, without success. "All right, what do you take out?" I slurred at last, leaning forward. "You take out the sport," she said.

I never saw this woman again, but I often think of her. Until I met her, I would never have dared to assert that sport was uninteresting to all (or most) women; I just thought I had a blind spot. But now, when I open my *Times* in the morning, flipping the second section adroitly into the bin (only to rescue it later with a stifled scream and a flurry of soggy tea-bags, when I remember the arts pages) I know I am not alone. Similarly, when the *Today* programme reaches twenty-five past the hour ("Now, time for sport") and I rush about for precisely five minutes doing the noisy jobs such as half-running and kettle-boiling, I am confident that countless other people are doing the same. And finally, when a programme such as *Sports Review of the Year* soaks up two hours of BBC1 peak-time on a Sunday night, I happily regard it as a gap in the schedule, and read a book. Fran Lebowitz spoke for me and for millions, I quite believe, when she said the only thing she had in common with sports fanatics was the right to trial by jury.

I mention all this because on Sunday I eschewed the usual literary treat and forced myself to watch the *Sports Review* instead. I had heard about the time-honoured award for BBC Sports Personality of the Year, and envisaged it as a bit of a laugh, with household-name sports heroes lined up in swimwear and sashes ("Mister Cricket", "Mister 100 Metres" and so on) trying to impress Desmond Lyman with their breadth of hobbies and love of travel, and nervously pushing back their tiaras as they paraded at the end. Of course, it turned out to be much less interesting than that, with lots of unidentifiable sports people got up like funeral directors, but it did conclude quite oddly, when Nigel Mansell (the winner, a racing driver) addressed the viewer at home and said that he would like to thank us all for supporting him.

For a moment he was so convincing that I almost didn't notice. "Any time, Nige. Don't mention it, old son," I said, wiping a tear. But then I remembered that I never watch racing driving (can't stand the *pow-pow*; can't stomach the commentators; can't follow who's winning; hate the bit when they squirt champagne). And it suddenly occurred to me: These people don't know. They really don't know that sport is a minority interest. When they say "England" and assume you will understand a team of footballers, they forget completely that the word has another (if only a secondary) meaning. Far be it from me to argue that other people should not enjoy sport. It is merely childish to argue against something on the grounds that you don't know what they see in it. I just wish to point out, for those who didn't know, that in a large number of households the television news gets switched off automatically when the announcer says "Cricket, and a Edgbaston..." And also that sometimes, when drunk and in the pleasant company of the cast of *Watership Down*, one can believe for a bright shining moment that the collective indifference is so very marked, it might even be marketable.

### An Archer all a-quiver

REPORTS that the House of Lords would eclipse the Commons when the new breed of political heavyweights took their seats this autumn appear to have been greatly exaggerated.

Those expecting debates on the sanctity of the British sausage to be replaced by rousing oratory on the subject of Europe once Lords Howe, Lawson, Owen, Parkinson, Ridley, Tebbit, and Baroness Thatcher arrived have been disappointed. The most recent intake appears to spend more time debating in television studios than it does in the Upper House. Of the seven mentioned above, only Lady Thatcher and Lord Howe have made their maiden speeches.

Lady Thatcher, expected by many to spearhead the campaign against Maastricht, has spoken only twice since she took her seat, and on one of those occasions she actually supported the government. The House of Lords records show that by December 3 Lord Howe had also spoken on only two occasions.

One regular inhabitant of the chamber, who does not wish to be named, says: "We do not see Lords Tebbit, Lawson and Parkinson

very often. They have other jobs. I don't expect we will see much more of them after they have made their maiden speeches".

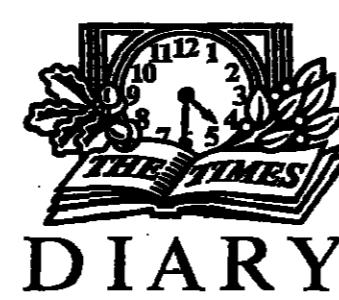
Lord Deedes has another explanation for the lack of excitement from the new peers. Not long after they were created, he predicted that they would be quickly tamed. "Tradition in the Lords has it that firebrands are quenched," Lord Deedes says.

One who is taking his new job extremely seriously is Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, who is to make his maiden speech tomorrow. Lord Archer, despite his numerous interests, has not missed a single sitting of the Lords in the past ten weeks.

"I was created a working peer," he says. "The prime minister asked me to work. It would be extremely shoddy of me not to do so. I have stayed silent for ten weeks just observing and finding out how the place works."

Having delivered his maiden speech in the Commons some 22 years ago on the economy, his chosen subject for his debut in the other place is overseas aid, a subject of long-term interest to him.

Surprisingly, for one so practised



### Home alone?

THE Earl of Shelburne, confidant of both the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker-Bowles, must be less than delighted to discover that his home, Bowood House, near Cirencester, may soon find itself excised from Wilshire's tourist map.

Last week Mrs Parker-Bowles fled her own home near by — Middletown House, near Corsham — to seek temporary sanctuary at Bowood, a magnificent 4,000-acre estate and one of the county's most popular sights.

## The Edinburgh summit proved that the prime minister is a consummate tactician, says Woodrow Wyatt

The brilliant *Daisy Pulls It Off* ran for years in the 1980s. From a poor background, *Daisy* had a harrowing period of being shunned and derided by her grander fellow schoolgirls. But her saving of the school from apparently inevitable disasters, culminating in scoring the winning goal at hockey against its arch-rival, turned her into its admired leader. Similarly John Major's success at Edinburgh after months of attacks from all quarters (often I was almost alone supporting him in the press) has suddenly quelled doubts of his leadership quality. Britain could not have hoped for a better result and we need no referendum.

Subsidiarity has been dealt with regard to the principle of subsidiarity. The meaning of the annexes is that the Commission must give full advance warning of its intentions, not hitherto done. These can be irrelevant to the single market starting on January 1 and can and will be prevented. The Commission is withdrawing from the subsidiarity principle and accepts that "national powers are the rule and the Community's the exception". The bright light of publicity ensures that the Brussels bureaucracy will become akin to the politically controlled civil service in Britain. The Edinburgh limit on increased spending on administration of only 8 per cent between now and 1999 will result in not enough Brussels

bullets to poke their noses in where they are not needed. Fears of destruction of age-old national habits fade.

France is isolated on Gatt, now certain to go ahead despite the fury of French farmers. True, the monstrous CAP will continue to absorb too much of the Community's income, but the downward pressure is on. It will be accelerated by the new anti-corruption rules to be enforced by the strengthened court of auditors, able at last to examine government officials in all EC countries. There will be hefty penalties against governments not stamping out the massive frauds, mainly CAP, now costing EC taxpayers some £5 billion a year.

Norman Lamont splendidly clobbered the inflated Brussels

demands for vastly more cash ostensibly to help growth. A little was conceded to help poorer countries but Spain's churlish threats to smash all if not given more were exploded. The extra cost to us at £200 million a year is tiny compared with the £2 billion a year rebate preserved for Britain until the end of the century.

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countries, there will be over 1,000, rising perhaps to nearer 2,000 when Russia and others come along. Happily this will make the European Parliament completely incapable of supplanting national parliaments, confirming it to be a harmless talking shop.

With the prime minister and his foreign secretary in the forefront, all the opt-out concessions the Danish government felt were necessary for a Yes vote in the second referendum in late April or early May were made. The Schengen countries (Germany, France and the Benelux countries) may or may not decide on a single currency; no one else is obliged to. The proposed central European bank is now unpopular even in Germany and there is no requirement on any to join it or to

## John Major pulls it off

### Conor Cruise O'Brien on the dangers of drifting into an unwinnable war

Many well-meaning people, horrified by the reports from Bosnia, are calling for full-scale military intervention to end the bloodshed. Unfortunately such action would not end the bloodshed, but increase it enormously, at least in the short term. "Rolling back" the Serbs out of Bosnia would be an extremely costly operation in terms of lives of the invading forces and of civilians, both in Bosnia and Serbia. And even assuming that the Serbs were driven out of Bosnia, the invading forces, or large numbers of them, would have to remain in Bosnia indefinitely, to ensure that the Serbs did not come back.

Some influential American enthusiasts for intervention want the intervening forces to invade Serbia and occupy it. In that case it would be the military occupation of Serbia that would have to be continued indefinitely. In both cases, the victory of the interventionists would require an indefinite presence in former Yugoslavia to preserve what had been won: the independence of Bosnia. And the forces remaining for that task would be subject to sustained attrition by Serbian irregulars and probably also by Croats. Even attacks by Muslims indignant at the failure of the intervening forces altogether to repress or exterminate the Serbs could not be ruled out. Whatever the variations, an indefinitely-protracted war of attrition would become unavoidable.

In those conditions, as the body-bags continued to stream home, domestic pressure on the contributing countries to withdraw their forces would become irresistible. And when they were withdrawn, conditions in former Yugoslavia would be no better, and probably worse, than they had been before the intervention began.

I am not arguing against the military convoying of humanitarian relief. But there is a clear danger of escalation. Limited intervention, as now, will only have limited success; sporadic atrocities will continue, and will lead to clamour for the "beefing up" of the forces on the ground.

Then further atrocities elicit further beefing up. If the claimant is not resisted at some point, the process will continue until it culminates in the huge disaster of full-scale military intervention. This is one of those grim cases where the results of compassion can be even more cruel than the events which evoked the compassion in the first place.

It may be asked why large-scale military intervention should be taking place in Somalia amid general approval but rejected for Bosnia. The reason is that, militarily, Somalia is a much softer option than Bosnia. The violence in former Yugoslavia is wholesale, with large, highly-motivated forces confronting one another. The violence in Somalia is mostly the work of gangsters pillaging relief supplies. So when George

Bush wanted to end his single presidential term with panache, exhibiting compassion and resolve on a large scale, his military advisers must have advised him, in effect: "Well if you must go in somewhere, try Somalia. Not Yugoslavia, not at any price."

Though designed to appeal to the genuinely humanitarian instincts of millions of Americans, the US intervention is a cynical pseudo-humanitarian publicity exercise. Its political objective could be readily divined from its timing. Troops were available for deployment in Mogadishu the weekend before last, but stayed aboard the ships. The reason was explained by a television producer in Mogadishu: "At the weekend, American television news bulletins are not long."

In one respect, the situation in

Somalia resembles that of former Yugoslavia: after the troops have been withdrawn, the country is liable to revert to its earlier condition. The American troops will stay as long as Mr Bush is president. His successor will then be faced with the awkward question of how to get the troops out, without that reversion happening. The idea, currently being canvassed, is that the Americans can stick together a Somali political solution which will endure after their departure, belongs in the realm of fantasy. Any political agreement would collapse once the US occupation was over.

The most favourable outcome for the Somalis, and which is within the bounds of possibility, is as follows: President Clinton sets a time-limit, perhaps six months, at the end of which the American troops will be with-

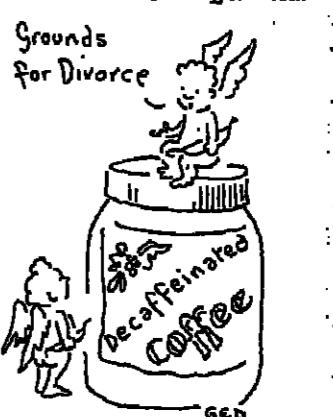
drawn to be replaced by a United Nations international force. In the interim he makes sure the new international force is more effective than the one that has just failed. This will require adequate funding and diplomatic backing, supply of equipment and — most importantly — logistical support by the US Air Force. The UN force would still have a stay for a long time, during which Somalia would be under virtual UN trusteeship. But that would be much better for ordinary Somalis than what they now have.

If Mr Clinton can accomplish that, Operation Restore Hope will deserve its name. If the Americans simply march out, as they marched in, without enabling the United Nations to replace the Americans effectively, this will have been one of the most disgustingly cynical

"rescue" operations in history. It is an illusion that there can exist in international organisations, or in the international community, or in any power or group of powers an inexhaustible capacity to solve conflicts within any country or former country. It is also an illusion to suppose that every international "problem" must have its solution. The situation inside former Yugoslavia is not a "problem": it consists of a number of conflicts, and conflicts do not have solutions: they have outcomes. The conflicts in former Yugoslavia already have a number of outcomes, most of which are probably irreversible. One outcome is the occupation of much of Muslim Bosnia by Serbs and Croats. This is a nasty outcome. But the attempt to impose a chimerical solution would be far nastier.

Two beverages are to be made available. One is her favourite pre-prandial Famous Grouse whisky with still Highland Spring water and a cube of ice. The other is lemon barley water with half the juice of a lemon, a slice of lemon and another large cube of ice. In case she is driving, presumably.

The long-awaited declaration of love that concluded the Nescafé Gold Blend saga made headlines last week. But such emotional outpourings have clearly proved draining. Tony Head, whose character has been pursuing the plump neighbour played by Sharon Maughan for five years, was subsequently spotted in a south London bar — ordering decaffeinated.



### An Archer all a-quiver

#### DIARY

## &lt;h4



## SLOW AWAKENING

Bosnia needs help — and should get it soon

The hibernation of the West has been rudely interrupted by the roar and rattle from the Balkans. Suddenly the United States, France and other Western governments are talking of military-backed action as if it were a matter of weeks away, rather than a distant, unthinkable prospect. The new alertness is much to be welcomed.

Even a week ago, we feared that Washington would maintain a passive, even timid approach to the Balkan crisis. The call of president-elect Bill Clinton for the enforcement of a no-fly zone over Bosnia has begun to dispel that notion. There seemed a real risk that the American foray into Somalia would be a substitute for action in the former Yugoslavia. An American official was asked recently if the Somalia operation had set a precedent for Bosnia. "We don't do mountains," he replied.

Now, it appears, America is prepared to take mountains in its stride, or at least fly over them. A coherent policy is emerging and the Americans seem ready to lead jointly a Western effort to help what is left of the shattered Bosnian Republic. France too has recognised that diplomacy will only be effective if backed by a credible military threat. The Geneva Conference on Wednesday is set to discuss how military action can further complement diplomacy.

The British government, having weathered the Edinburgh summit and secured a sensible if temporary compromise on Macedonia, must now focus as clearly as its Nato partners on the Balkan issue. It is sad, and rather absurd, that the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office should have been talking with such different tongues for so many weeks. As defence secretary, Malcolm Rifkind naturally has a duty to warn of the possible casualties in the event of military intervention. But justifiable anxiety should not mean paralysis.

Time is running out. The winter is advancing on Sarajevo and other beleaguered Bosnian cities. Tentative talks on opening up air corridors to the Bosnian capital have ended without agreement. If, as seems probable, Slobodan Milosevic wins the Serbian presidential election on December 20, he may attempt to patch up a deal with Croatia to dismember Bosnia. Unless Mr Milosevic undergoes some kind of Pauline conversion, his next step will then be to shift southwards to Kosovo, the cradle of Serbian nationalism and a logical rallying point for a divided country. Ethnic Albanians, who make up the large majority there, are simmering after years of repression.

The sequence of events is not difficult to imagine: Belgrade helps Serbs in Kosovo to put down ethnic Albanian unrest; ethnic Albanians from neighbouring Macedonia come to the aid of their cousins; the Macedonian government begins to look uneasy and Serbia moves on to Macedonia. Greece, Albania, Turkey and Bulgaria could then be sucked into a third Balkan war. A large UN contingent must urgently be sent to Macedonia to prevent this chain of events. The Geneva Conference should be able to agree on this relatively uncontroversial.

## WITHOUT APOLOGY

We should not have to defend ourselves against the Soley Bill

Senior representatives of the British press have been asked to Westminster today to consider a bill which "requires" them to "present news with due accuracy and impartiality" and empowers government appointees to make sure that they do so. Under measures proposed by Clive Soley, MP and discussed with depressing solemnity in the House of Commons, a member of the cabinet would choose a panel with unprecedented powers to instruct news papers in what to print.

There ought properly to be nothing for editors to talk about here. If the bill were to be made law, the Secretary of State for National Heritage (or whatever other new department or non-department were deemed appropriate in future) would be able to choose 21 people to decide whether or not a statement in a newspaper was accurate and, if not, how it should be corrected.

The draft bill assures its readers that those people would be drawn from young and old, black and white, northerners and southerners, fit and disabled. The members' adherence to the "current demographic pattern of the UK" would be beyond reproach. Their unifying principle would, however, be much more significant than what divided them: each of their careers as press-politicians would be dependent on a political master.

This is not a good time to present the virtues of an unfettered press before the people of Britain. It rarely is a good time. Last week the prime minister announced the royal separation to packed benches on both sides of the House of Commons: the political mood on that day was one of common loathing towards the tabloid newspapers whose "invasions" of palace privacy had allegedly precipitated a crisis. People who happily buy newspapers every day are always happy to hate them on some days; often they lack little for justification.

The issue here is not, however, one of controlling excessive behaviour. The issue is of allowing a statutory body, established with legal powers by politicians, to enforce upon newspapers what they should publish and what they should not.

Long argument is possible, probably inevitable today, about the difficulty of establishing when a correction to a newspaper statement is required. Most state-

rial step and the United Nations should be pressed to authorise the dispatch of the necessary force.

But the doubts of Mr Rifkind and the army establishment on a broader Bosnian mission have to be answered, if a coherent British and European policy is to be developed quickly. An air exclusion zone sounds simple, but it is not. The Serbs are not dependent on their airpower to carry out the worst of their abuses, some of which were chronicled vividly yesterday by our correspondent in Sarajevo. Gaining command of the skies will not end, or reverse, ethnic cleansing; nor will it restore the territorial integrity of Bosnia. Nor would it go any way towards toppling the Belgrade regime. These would be war aims and the West is not yet at war with Serbia.

There are also practical problems with policing the Bosnian skies. Combatants might well start painting their supply and attack helicopters with red crosses. To make the no-fly zone work, there will have to be tight air traffic controls; all airfields will have to be closed and all aid flights watched lest they be shadowed by war planes. AWACS reconnaissance will have to be supported by on-the-ground intelligence.

Having established command of the sky, new political and military questions arise. Should airfields be bombed? Should Western air power be used to provide support for aid convoys? And what if Serb forces, angered by American attacks on their aircraft, decide to wreak revenge on the British or other ground contingents?

These are the concerns of those opposed, on pragmatic grounds, to a limited air, land and sea operation in defence of humanitarian relief work. Extending the UN rules of engagement and allowing ground forces adequately to defend themselves would be a step in the right direction. But then, say the sceptics, the whole mission in former Yugoslavia would have been transformed into a creeping military intervention: war planes would be buzzing over Bosnia, the Cheshire would be engaged in fire fights in mountain passes. Is that not war by another name?

The West is still a long way short of all-out war with Serbia. The moves currently on the agenda have two aims: to support humanitarian relief of the Bosnians and to deter the spread of the war to Kosovo or Macedonia. These objectives should be made plain from the moment the air policing decision is made. The Serbs have to be tested; an end has to be put to the myth of their invincibility. But even these limited military actions should be calibrated with intensive diplomatic efforts. The Russians, who again yesterday spoke against anti-Serbian sanctions, have to be persuaded that the deployment of war planes has not displaced the search for a negotiated political settlement in former Yugoslavia. Indeed, the Geneva Conference will provide the West with useful opportunities to persuade Russia and other anti-interventionist states to engage more actively in what may be the most complex diplomatic puzzle of the 1990s.

## Plain English

From Mrs Ruth Winram

Sir, Mr John Pugsley's letter (December 3) highlights the prejudice that many people, even on the eve of 1993, still maintain towards foreign languages. There are certain phrases which in their source language are far more graphic, concise and eloquent than if they are translated.

Are we to emasculate our language to such a point that any phrases which might be considered difficult or elitist should be banned? Why stop at foreign phrases? We would soon be at a nadir of linguistic expression unmatched even by Enid Blyton.

The richness of any language develops from its history and its contact with other countries and their language and literature. It is high time that we all realise this.

Yours faithfully,  
RUTH WINRAM,  
Lingua Franca Language Services,  
The Red House, Church Lane,  
Middleton St George,  
Darlington, Co. Durham.

## School league tables

From Mr Michael Benham

Sir, The head master of William Hulme's Grammar School, Manchester (letter, December 3) impugns "perverse logic" to Mr John Patten over his treatment of this year's GCSE results. I see no perversity.

However suspect the validity of these results may be, they are the only ones available, and accordingly, once the decision to publish had been taken (a matter for a different debate), the only ones Mr Patten could use. Your newspaper, the government and others have all warned against using the tables as a measure of schools' success or failure; if this is being done, it is — inevitably, perhaps — the media and the public who are doing it, not the minister.

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. BENHAM,  
Pandy House, Bakehouse Lane,  
Ockbrook, Derbyshire.

Business letters, page 23

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### More demands on army resources

From General Sir Philip Christison and others

Sir, Since August 1991 we, as former General Officers Commanding Scotland, have been expressing our disquiet that the army will not have enough infantry battalions to meet its commitments if the full cuts proposed under *Options for Change* went ahead. Since then extra units have been needed in Northern Ireland and Bosnia. Gaps between emergency tours are now only 15 months against a declared target of two years.

The foreign secretary has expressed his belief that further cuts on our limited resources will come from Europe and the United Nations. Experience in Northern Ireland shows the folly of planning on any troop reductions there. The Hong Kong scene looks far from settled.

Scottish members of Parliament are to call on the defence secretary on December 17. They will urge him to review his plans now to reflect the world as it is and not as his advisers wish it to be. When decisions are taken, surely they must be, to retain more infantry battalions, we trust that the excellent manning records of the Scottish regiments will be taken into account.

Yours etc.,

PHILIP CHRISTISON (1947-9),  
DEREK LANG (1966-9),  
HENRY LEASK (1969-72),  
CHANDOS BLAIR (1972-6),  
DAVID SCOTT-BARRETT (1976-9),  
MICHAEL GOW (1979-80),  
DAVID YOUNG (1980-2),  
SANDY BOSWELL (1982-5),  
NORMAN ARTHUR (1985-8),  
JOHN MACMILLAN (1988-9),  
c/o 17 Ainslie Place,  
Edinburgh 3.

December 13.

### Balkan concerns

From the Ambassador of Greece

Sir, The fear expressed in your editorial, "Against aggression" (December 5), that "Were Serbian forces to move south, Bulgaria, Albania and even Greece could join a war of partition, reviving ancient territorial claims", is totally unfounded as far as Greece is concerned.

Indeed, Greece has repeatedly stated in the most categorical manner that she has neither the desire to partition, nor any designs on any claims whatsoever on the territory of the Republic of Skopje.

In fact, only a few weeks ago, at the instigation of the Greek prime minister, Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, all four neighbouring countries — Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and Albania — jointly undertook to guarantee the inviolability of the borders of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

Greece has no intention of involving herself in any "war" at all. Do you not think that there is a danger that so much talk about war could in the end become a self-fulfilling prophecy?

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE D. PAPOULIAS,  
Greek Embassy,  
1a Holland Park W11.  
December 9.

### Plain English

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Yours faithfully,  
RUTH WINRAM,  
Lingua Franca Language Services,  
The Red House, Church Lane,  
Middleton St George,  
Darlington, Co. Durham.

### Scales of justice

From Mr Jack Davis

Sir, The reference to George Blake in your editorial, "Time for mercy" (November 28), concerning the Israeli prisoner Mordechai Vanunu was most apposite.

Blake, whose crimes as a double agent well merited his 42-year sentence, was not subjected to any special restrictions as in the case of Vanunu, but allowed to mix freely with other prisoners. He was then able to escape and to betray hundreds of fellow agents.

Unlike President Herzog at the present time, the then Mr Roy Jenkins, as home secretary, was perhaps not aware of the rabbinic saying: "Those who are merciful to the wicked are wicked to the innocent".

Yours sincerely,  
JACK DAVIS,  
The Cottage,  
Rock Mount,  
Nr Peel, Isle of Man.

Business letters, page 23

### Why education of prisoners has been put out to tender

From the Minister of State, Home Office

Sir, In congratulating Mr J. Tall on gaining three A levels in prison (letter, December 5) I must correct his misconception about prison education.

The government has not decided "to contract out these services to the private sector from April 1, 1993". Neither do the changes we are having to make stem from a desire to cut costs with little regard to quality.

Our purpose is to stimulate new and better ways of carrying out existing tasks by inviting tenders from both the public and private sector. The contracts will be placed with those who offer the best combination of quality and price.

The changes are necessary because on April 1, 1993, local education authorities, which currently provide prison education, will lose most of their responsibilities for further education, including the majority of courses which make up the core of most education programmes in prisons.

We have therefore been obliged to make alternative arrangements, and see competitive tendering as the most effective way of ensuring the highest standard of education across the whole of the service.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER LLOYD,  
Home Office,  
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.  
December 9.

From Mr Colin Riche

Sir, For six years I have run an art and craft workshop in a maximum security prison as part of the prison's education programme. I recently researched the role of this workshop (which won a National Art Collectors Fund award earlier this year) and the contribution which it made to the regime.

ber 1992, this number had been reduced to 54. Now the government intends to abolish the 26 remaining wages councils.

The TUC is opposed to abolition and is concerned at the past and current inability of wages inspectors to enforce the law on wages councils' rates. In 1991, 5,971 firms (approximately one third of all establishments inspected) were found to be paying below minimum rates. Between 1979 and 1991, 106,000 firms were found to be underpaying their staff.

In the forthcoming review of regulations the TUC wants the government to pay attention to strengthening the social protection that regulations bring, and not just look at the alleged "burden" on business.

It is the government that chooses which regulations to enforce by the decisions which it takes on its deployment of resources. In 1979 approximately 177 wages inspectors policed the 30,000 establishments covered by the wages council system; by November 1992, this number had been reduced to 54. Now the government intends to abolish the 26 remaining wages councils.

Yours sincerely,  
BILL CALLAGHAN  
(Secretary),  
TUC Public Services Committee,  
Great Russell Street, WC1.

December 4.

### Guilty pleas

From Professor Michael McConville and Mr Lee Bridges

Sir, We note the findings of a survey by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice (report, December 9) that over 1,000 defendants plead guilty in the crown court each year when their legal representative has doubt about their guilt and believes that the plea has been entered only to obtain a sentence discount.

Apart from the obvious concern that the system is thereby inducing innocent people to plead guilty rather than risk more serious penalties for exercising their right to trial, the findings draw attention to an apparent failure on the part of defence barristers to prevent such miscarriages from occurring.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL MC CONVILLE,  
LEE BRIDGES  
(Legal researcher),  
University of Warwick,  
School of Law,  
Coventry,  
West Midlands CV4 7AL.  
December 9.

### Drivers who smoke

From Dr R. Scott Russell

Sir, Your report (November 30) that insurance companies are considering charging reduced premiums to non-smokers. The basis of this proposal appears to be accident statistics on the other side of the Atlantic.

I suggest that before the insurance companies take any such action, which would presumably portend increased premiums for smokers, they consider drivers who smoke pipes. For over 50 years I drove with a clean licence, usually with a pipe in my mouth. Undoubtedly it contributed to my patience and tolerance on crowded roads. Might reduced premiums for pipe-smokers not be considered?

This letter is not inspired by any personal motive. An eye problem lately led me to stop driving.

Yours faithfully,  
R. SCOTT RUSSELL,  
The Grange, East Hanney,  
Wantage, Oxfordshire.

### Wonder of science

From Professor Emeritus Peter H. Plesch

Sir, Once again, know-all Levin has produced a piece of fatuous rubbish which it was a waste of time to write, to print, and to read ("Incredible shrinking world", December 10).

Why let one with his skills and knowledge pronounce scuriously and damagingly on something of which he has but the scantiest knowledge and understanding? Would you print a dead person's opinion on a concert performance or a blind person's review of a fashion show?

Scientific research is the quest for new knowledge and understanding of all aspects of our world.

All humanity, and especially this country, is in need of more and better science, and it is therefore irresponsible for someone of Mr Levin's reputation to generate spurious ridicule on an important realm of knowledge and some of its practitioners of proven ability.

What we need urgently is more sympathy and better understanding of science, and a desire



## OBITUARIES

## DR ALI AMINI

DR ALI Amini, liberal politician and former prime minister of Iran, died in Paris on December 12, his 87th birthday. He was born in Tehran in 1905.

DR ALI Amini participated in Iranian politics for over six decades and, even when he was not occupying high office, influenced the course of events from behind the scenes. It has been argued that if the Shah, at the height of his power, had taken Amini's advice and liberalised government the Islamic revolution of 1979 might have been averted.

Ali Amini was born into the landed aristocracy of Iran at the highest level. His mother, the princess Fakhroddowleh, was a daughter of the reigning monarch, Mozaffaruddin Shah, who had given the country its first parliamentary constitution; his father was Aminoddowleh II, the son of the chancellor (prime minister) Aminoddowleh I. Upon falling out of favour with the Shah, the latter placed a curse upon those of his descendants who entered politics. Whereas his son heeded the curse, his grandson, Ali, found the ancient lure irresistible.

After his primary and secondary education in Tehran, Amini was sent to Grenoble and Paris, where he studied economics and law. When he returned, Iran was being ruled by a new dynasty, the Pahlavi, under Reza Shah, who had abolished all aristocratic titles but did not persecute the remnants of the previous palace.

Amini entered the ministry of justice and spent a number of years as a judge before transferring to the ministry of customs, of which he became head in 1939. Three years later, after Britain and Russia had occupied Iran to overthrow Reza Shah for his pro-German leanings, and to use the country as a bridge to supply the Soviet army, Amini joined the office of his uncle, Qavam-o-Saltaneh, the veteran prime minister.

In 1948, Amini was elected a member of the Majlis (parliament) for Tehran and entered the cabinet two years later in charge of the economy. This was the period building up to the nationalisation of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in 1951 under the premiership of his cousin Mohammad



Musaddiq. Although he retained his post under the new prime minister, the two men's differences over policy soon led to his spending two years out of office.

In 1953, after a military coup, organised chiefly by the United States, had overthrown Musaddiq and returned political power to the royal court, Amini returned to the economy ministry and accepted the unpopular task of negotiating a deal with a consortium of American and British oil companies.

In 1956 he was sent to Washington as ambassador, but was recalled abruptly two years later, apparently because he had criticised the Shah for the way he was spending the country's newly-enriched revenues from the sale of oil. Amini was also thought to have

angered the Shah for advocating observance of the constitution to allow freedom of organisation to the moderate opposition.

By 1961, however, when a Democratic administration under President Kennedy ruled in Washington, Amini's liberalism and his belief in the need for economic and social reform made him, in the Shah's eyes, an attractive choice as prime minister. Amini now persuaded the Shah to disband the Majlis, whose election was widely thought to have been rigged and which was an obstacle to his projected reforms, particularly the break-up of large agricultural estates to distribute them among farmers. He also ordered the arrest of a number of army generals and police chiefs for corruption and began investigating the

possibility of reducing military spending.

Amini now ruled through cabinet decree ratified by the Shah. Although many of his policies, particularly land reform, were popular, the newly emancipated opposition clamoured for immediate new elections. This Amini was not prepared to grant, as he believed that a combination of the army, the clergy and the landowners would present him with another conservative Majlis opposed to reform.

Amid turmoil on the streets, Amini found that the Shah was also turning, againing him by blocking many of his programmes. The Americans exacerbated the situation by cutting off aid to Iran. In July 1962, Amini submitted his resignation to a relieved Shah, who immediately took steps towards turning the country into an absolute monarchy with the veneer of a parliamentary constitution.

Amini never regained public office, but remained politically active. Particularly in the late 1970s, when the power of the Shah was visibly crumbling in the build-up to the Islamic revolution, Amini became influential as a link between the court and the National Front, the coalition of Musaddiqite political parties which the Shah was now wooing. His efforts were too late.

After the revolution, Amini went into self-imposed exile in Paris and formed the National Salvation Front of Iran, one of the two gatherings of moderate monarchists abroad, the other being led by the late Dr Shahpour Bakhtiar, the former deputy-leader of the National Front and the Shah's last prime minister. The two movements later came together around a set of principles but they were cut off from Iran.

Dr Amini was unusually accessible to visitors and took little precaution to protect himself, even at the time when Iranian-inspired terrorists were highly active in Paris. He possessed great energy and wit, and he once gave new expression to the medieval political maxim by saying: "We the rich have to be more patriotic than the man in the street. We have a patrimony to defend!"

His death was preceded earlier this year by that of his wife, Batool, a daughter of another prime minister, Vosoq-o-Saltaneh. They are survived by their son, Iraj.

## CORNELIUS VANDERBILT WHITNEY

Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, founder of Pan American Airways, philanthropist, financier, and horse-racing enthusiast, died of natural causes at his home in Saratoga Springs, New York on December 13, aged 93. He was born in Roslyn, Long Island, on February 20, 1899.

## CORNELIUS

Whitney may have been born with a silver spoon in his mouth — in his case the metal was probably gold — but it served as no impediment to a life of considerable achievement. And yet, for all his wealth and social standing, and his colossal diversity of interests, he remained largely unknown to the outside world.

In the public mind he was often confused with his younger cousin, John Hay (Jack) Whitney, who was publisher of the *New York Herald Tribune* and ambassador to the Court of St James.

In 1941, at the peak of his

many careers, *The New Yorker* magazine said of him: "Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney is living proof that a man can inherit \$20 million, bear two of the most socially and financially prominent names in the country, become chairman of the board of two of America's giant business enterprises, run for Congress, own a racing stable, build and operate a large commercial aquarium, and at the same time preserve a personality so self-effacing that the public does not know exactly who he is."

Whitney, known to his

friends as Sonny, was fabulously well-connected from the day of his birth. His paternal grandfather, William C. Whitney, had made several fortunes in oil, tobacco and New York City streetcars and had served as Secretary of the Navy under President Grover Cleveland.

His mother, Gertrude Van

derbilt, was the daughter of Cornelius Vanderbilt II, one of the legendary railroad barons of the late 19th century. And his great-uncle, Oliver C. Payne, was treasurer of the Standard Oil Company.

As a boy Whitney saw little

of his parents, who were often away on long trips abroad. He was packed off to the exclusive Groton School at the age of 12, but refused to go straight to college when he graduated in 1917.

Instead, Whitney volunteered for pilot training in the aviation section of the US Army, was commissioned the following year, and became a flying instructor at Carruthers Field in Texas.

With the end of the first world war he left the Army and enrolled at Yale, where his achievements were less academic than sporting. He was captain of the squash team and gained something of a reputation as a playboy before graduating in

1917.

In his personal life, Whitney was somewhat less fortunate. He was married four times in all: to Marie Norton from 1923 to 1929; to Gladys Hopkins from 1931 to 1941; to Eleanor Searle from 1941 to 1958; and since then to the former actress Marylou Hostford.

With his last marriage, Whitney became established as a leader of high society, philanthropist to a myriad of causes, and a patron of the arts. His beneficiaries included the Whitney Museum of American Art, which was founded by his mother, and the financially-troubled 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, New York.

Cornelius Whitney is survived by his wife, by three of his five children, and by four step-children.

1922. Backed by his family's enormous wealth, Whitney promptly embarked on a variety of business enterprises. Together with Juan Trippe, a friend from his days at Yale, he founded Pan American Airways in 1927 and served as chairman of the board during the airline's enormous expansion between 1931 and 1941, when it became a symbol of America's technological prowess.

His other ventures included the acquisition of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company in 1931 (he remained its chairman until 1964) and the opening of the Marine Studios in St Augustine, Florida, which later became the underwater

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## BUSINESS 19-24

Europe to rule tomorrow on Sunday shopping



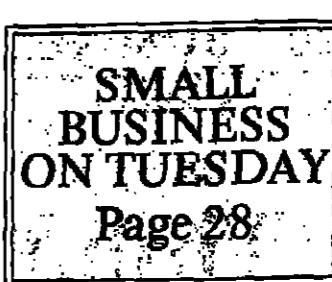
## ARTS 25-27

Can John Fisher repeat his Italian success over here?



## SPORT 32-36

Hill succeeds Mansell in Williams team



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# THE TIMES 2

TUESDAY DECEMBER 15 1992

BUSINESS TODAY

POWER DEAL

PowerGen has signed a deal with Eastern Electricity to provide coal-fired power worth £100 million a year  
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OWN DEAL

Wallets made from reindeer skins and tips on getting to grips with Euro-jargon - it's all in Your Own Business  
Page 28

WORK DEAL

As Ford prepares to announce job cuts in Britain and Germany, Volkswagen put workers on short-time  
Page 21

DRINK DEAL

Britain's licensing laws are overdue for reform to allow sale of alcoholic drinks all day, Patrick Stevens says  
Page 29

## Belgium forces EC enquiry on Dan-Air deal

By TOM WALKER AND COLIN NARBROUGH

BELGIUM has accused Sir Leon Brittan, European competition commissioner, of "unfair bias" towards British Airways and invoked a hitherto unused Community rule to force an inquiry into BA's takeover of Dan-Air, Britain's oldest independent airline.

The controversial takeover, approved by London and Brussels this autumn, will now be investigated by the European Commission for the impact the merger has on airline competition in Belgium.

In the unexpected move, Belgium, which has no national watchdog able to investigate the acquisition, invoked article 22 of the Community competition rules that obliges the commission to study a merger on a member state's behalf. The commission has a month to give a verdict.

The Dan-Air takeover gave BA an additional four return flights from Gatwick to Brussels. BA already has seven flights a day to Brussels from Heathrow. British Midland has eight flights to Brussels out of London City airport and Air UK from three of Stansted.

The acquisition of the loss-making Dan-Air, for a nominal £1, provoked a storm of protest from BA's rivals at home and abroad. Bernard Attali, the Air France president, campaigned with particular ferocity against the

takeover, seeing it as a BA advance into Belgium, where Air France had just struck an alliance with Sabena, the Belgian national carrier.

M Attali was further incensed over the commission's approval of BA's controlling stake in TAT, the French regional airline, which gives BA important access to the French market. Virgin Atlantic, British Midland, Air UK and Britannia all complained to the commission about the Dan-Air sale.

BA insisted yesterday's announcement was "not a reversal" of the go-ahead the commission gave six weeks ago, but a separate and narrowly defined investigation.

Derek Ross, a BA spokesman, said the Belgian move was "totally unjustified", as there was plenty of competition on the London-Brussels route and plenty of room to expand on it. He said the takeover was a "done deal" with the merger process already in train.

Dan-Air signs have already disappeared from Gatwick, 450 former Dan-Air staff have donned BA uniforms, and the sale of Dan-Air's ten Boeing 737s has begun. Some 1,800 staff were made redundant by Dan-Air prior to the takeover.

Davies & Newman, the

Season of gloom: Porth Group, Britain's biggest producer of Christmas decorations, is cutting its core workforce from 200 to 130 people and is moving operations under one roof at Treorchy in the Rhondda Valley in South Wales to save £400,000 a year. This will not prevent losses this year, but they should be less than the £1.3 million lost in 1991. John Miller replaces Neil Bell as chief executive

Roche buys

Fisons health business

By OUR CITY STAFF

FISON'S is selling its British consumer healthcare business, which includes the Sanofi and Radian brand names, to Roche, the Swiss pharmaceutical group, for £90 million.

Added to the sale of the American consumer healthcare business for £93 million last month, the disposal will make a substantial hole in the company's borrowings of £239 million.

Fisons has still to dispose of its Australian, South African and French consumer healthcare operations and its horticultural division. Ammonements on these disposals are expected early in the new year. At the end of June, the company's debts of £239 million amounted to 53 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Production will continue at the Fisons plant at Loughborough for the next year and will then transfer to the Roche vitamin plant in Scotland, with the net loss of 160 jobs.

Analysts said that Fisons had got a good price for the healthcare business, and the shares went up 2p to 212p.

Fisons is making the disposals to concentrate on its pharmaceutical and scientific instrument businesses. The latter has struggled in the recession and the former has suffered from complaints by the American Food and Drug Administration over drug production.

Costs of bringing production of Opticrom, an eye ointment, up to FDA standards were partly responsible for the plunge in pre-tax profits from £95.2 million to £40.4 million in the six months to end-June. Opticrom was withdrawn from sale in America.

Banks to take stakes in Anglo

By PATRICIA TEHAN

MIDLAND and Barclays banks are to become shareholders in Anglo United, the smokeless fuels group, as part of a restructuring of its £250 million debt.

The move follows Anglo's £22.7 million drop into the red for the six months to end-September from £3 million losses in the first half of 1991. This is the second restructuring of its finances this year and sent the shares down 1.5p to 6p.

Existing shareholders will have just over 50 per cent of the company, but that could fall to 36 per cent. The losses are the result of continuing recession and customers holding higher stocks after the warm winter earlier this year.

Talks to sell two of its businesses in July this year, which would have raised at

most £50 million, collapsed just before contracts were completed. That forced Anglo to renegotiate its debt payment schedule in July.

The half-year figures show turnover down from £269 million to £244 million. The pre-tax loss of £22.7 million was reached after exceptional charges of £11.2 million.

The exceptions are made up of £7 million professional costs of the earlier restructuring agreement and the estimated costs of current proposals: £2 million costs of the aborted disposals; £1.4 million write-off of loans made to the Employee Share Ownership Plan Trust; and exceptional bad debts of £800,000.

## Post Office to freeze letter prices as long as possible

By ROSS TIERNAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Bryan Nicholson, Post Office chairman, pledged to freeze letter prices "for as long as possible" after revealing more than doubled profits of £135 million in the first half of the year.

Because of the strong financial performance, letter prices, which have not risen since September 1991, would remain unchanged until at least next April, he said. All but £4 million of the profit was made by Royal Mail, which has trimmed £70 million of its costs in a reorganisation.

The parcels business continued to lose money, and Post Office Counters made £1.2 million.

"Prices will continue to be held for as long as possible in the new financial year," Sir Bryan said. His pledge was made against a background of continuing improvements in delivery reliability. The proportion of first-class letters delivered the day after posting reached 91.5 per cent during the first six months, exceeding the target agreed with the Post Office Users' National Council, the customers' watchdog.

The uphill struggle of Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, to privatise the Post Office parcels business received a modest lift yesterday as evidence mounted that the

parcels operation lost £24 million.

The Post Office's improvement was unveiled by Sir Bryan just seven days before he returns to the private sector, after a five-year stint during which the Post Office has been thoroughly reformed.

Sir Bryan, a former head of Rank Xerox, will become chairman of Varity Corporation in Britain. He already heads the British United President Association (Bupa), the healthcare group.

His successor, Michael Heron, of Unilever, will face the difficult task of liaising with ministers over the future of the Post Office, which is under a wide-ranging review by the industry department.

## Festive share-out on Wall Street

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON  
IN NEW YORK

WALL Street has stepped up the scramble to beat the tax plans of President-elect Bill Clinton. Bear Stearns, the New York investment bank and among the industry's biggest players, plans to issue \$173.8 million worth of shares to 130 senior staff before year end to limit the impact of tax reforms on high earners. The shares are part of a deferred pay plan that goes back over two years.

Salomon Brothers plans a similar share bonus, but has declined to provide details. Such moves form part of what is shaping up as a pay bonanza on Wall Street. Nine of the top investment banks have begun some form of plan to beat the tax increases.

Mr Clinton's reforms will limit the tax allowance available to corporations on executive pay, and the top rates of federal

tax will climb from 31 per cent to 36 per cent for individuals earning more than \$150,000. Current rules allow firms to claim all pay against profits. Mr Clinton's plan will limit that allowance to \$1 million per executive. The Securities Industry Association estimates that tens of thousands of brokers earn more than \$200,000 a year and several thousand are paid more than \$1 million.

Bonuses of stockbrokers and investment bankers can often make up two-thirds to three-quarters of their annual salary and are usually taken between December and January to split the tax payments over two years. Bear Stearns says its accelerated payments are in the interests of its own shareholders. By paying out share options this year, they estimate the firm will save \$160 million in tax allowances.

Industry is rapidly catching up. The top two executives at Walt Disney cashed

in a record \$253 million worth of personal share options this month. Michael Eisner, Walt Disney chairman and chief executive, converted options worth \$197 million, while Frank Wells, Disney's president, converted options valued at \$56 million.

Wall Street bonuses are expected to rise by between 20 per cent and 25 per cent this year, lifting the average Wall Street salary by 34 per cent over two years to \$110,000.

The scramble comes amid fresh attempts by investment banks to clamp golden handcuffs to keep their high earners from jumping ship. The leading American firms are attempting to derail the traditional high stakes poaching that takes place over the next two months once bonuses have been paid and firms embark on a human auction to attract successful brokers and their high fees.

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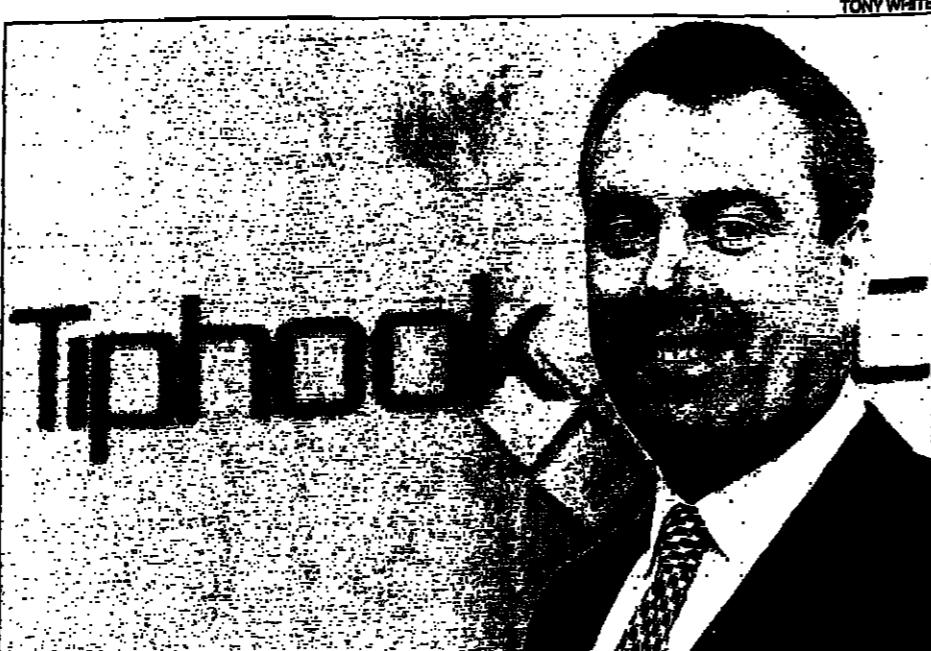
One Airline Can Make A Difference.

# Tiphook responds to City doubts

FOR a so-called growth stock to sell on 5.7 times this year's earnings and yield 9 per cent prospective speaks volumes about the market's perception of that company and its management. What the market is saying about Robert Montague's Tiphook is that it does not trust either much further than it can throw one of the group's articulated lorries.

Caution is understandable. Tiphook has been savaged by the bear raiders, whose activities have been helped by debate over the group's accounting policies, and the shares have been as low as 219p this autumn before American buying helped them to recover to 293p yesterday, 9p higher after an 11 per cent rise in the dividend.

That the Americans now hold 30 per cent and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority another 8 per cent only emphasises the extent to which the stock is shunned by the average City fund manager. Tiphook has responded to the doubts with an admirably full and clear set of interim figures that emphasises how



Driving force: Robert Montague, who has cut off Tiphook's spending programme

the once-heavy spending programme has been cut off, a little late perhaps, in response to falling trailer and container utilisation rates because of the recession. Currency factors have pushed gearing ahead by 20 percentage

points to 300 per cent, although interest costs remain well covered. Lower capital spending will trim borrowings in due course, and if the company succeeds in putting this message over to the City the shares will recover space with the American and British economy. For now, they remain a highly speculative play.

## Berkeley

SOUND balance sheets are rare in the construction industry these days and Berkeley Group is exploiting its financial strength to the full. It is rapidly outgrowing its traditional description as a luxury housebuilder as it diversifies into commercial property investment and larger developments through

joint ventures. Unlike most of its rivals, Berkeley is able to expand unhindered by heavy debts. At the end of October, it had net cash of £2 million, thanks to a strong cash flow and the remaining proceeds from last year's £44 million rights issue.

By keeping its land bank

small and concentrating on

niche developments, the

group has continued to ex-

pend in the half year to end-

October, it sold 468 units an-

increase of 39 per cent. That,

in turn, boosted profits by 27

per cent to £6.92 million.

Berkeley's prospects also look bright. The company's financial stability has enabled it to set up a series of joint ventures with land-owners which are now developing more than 1,000 units. These should start contributing next

year, along with Berkeley East Coast, the commercial property investor in which it holds a 25 per cent stake.

If the group continues to run true to form, it should produce a £15 million profit this year, rising to £20 million in 1993-4. The shares at 290p may be trading on a premium p/e ratio of 17.5, but should certainly not be sold.

## Anglo United

DESPITE all the tough talking in the summer by Anglo United's David McEwan, he has been brought down to earth with a bump. His refusal to turn the much-needed disposal of two businesses in the summer into a fire sale has sent him cap in hand to his banks to negotiate the company's second refinancing this year.

In July, when the sale of Anglo's liquid fuels business for £40 million collapsed when the buyer dropped its price to £29 million and the sale of Pozzament for £8.5 million fell through, he negotiated Anglo's debt repayment schedule instead.

Since then, the company has been hammered by the effects of the recession and a mild winter at the beginning of this year. Anglo still hopes to sell five non-core business

which it optimistically values at between £70 to £100 million.

In today's market, there is little hope of finding buyers at an acceptable price.

Any suggestion of an Anglo United bid for any part of a privatised British Coal must surely now be out of the question. This has never been a stock for the cautious investor. Stay away.

## Japan's trade surplus rises

FROM REUTER

IN TOKYO

WEAK domestic demand and a high yen boosted Japan's trade surplus in November. Economists believe the upward trend is likely to continue throughout next year.

The surplus in customs-cleared trade widened to an unadjusted \$7.60 billion, from \$6.41 billion a year earlier, the Ministry of Finance announced.

The value of exports was \$27.28 billion, up by 0.7 per cent from a year ago, due to the yen's appreciation to an average 122.87 to the dollar for the month, compared with 130.42 a year ago.

Export volumes, however, fell by 6 per cent from a year earlier. A drop in exports of metal-processing machinery and electronic consumer goods, especially to America and Europe, explained the slow overall export growth, the ministry said.

Exports to America dropped by 0.1 per cent, to \$8.19 billion, and those to the EC fell by 9.9 per cent, to \$4.15 billion.

Imports in November fell by 4.8 per cent from a year ago to \$19.69 billion, owing to lower spending by both corporations and consumers. The ministry attributed the decline mainly to lower imports of aircraft, cars and steel.

"This trend is likely to continue until late next year," said Juichi Wako, an economist at Nomura Research Institute. He estimated that Japan's trade surplus was likely to total \$110 billion in 1992, and rise to \$120 billion or \$130 billion in 1993.

## Troubled German steel firm's shares slump

KLÖCKNER-WERKE, the German steel company, said that more than 24 of its creditors will be affected by its decision last Friday to seek protection from creditors.

Klöckner has proposed to cut its 2.7 billion marks debts by about 60 per cent with the agreement of its creditors.

Shares in Klöckner yesterday resumed trading in Frankfurt, where they fell by 17.50 marks to 41 marks, after they had been suspended before Friday's announcement.

Klöckner's troubles have dealt a blow to confidence in Frankfurt's securities markets. A few large creditors are responsible for 90 per cent of the company's debts.

## Tiphook reverses

ROBERT Montague, chairman of Tiphook, has seen what may be the first signs of an improvement in the British economy, in the form of higher pre-Christmas use of his company's trailers to transport goods into the shops and to export markets after the devaluation of the pound. "We hope it's going to be long-lived," he said. Tiphook announced its first pre-tax profits downturn in a decade. Pre-tax profits in the six months to end-October fell by £4 million to £35.2 million, although the interim dividend rises 0.5p to 4.9p.

Tempus, this page

## Liechtenstein for treaty

THE people of Liechtenstein have voted "yes" to the European Economic Area treaty, only a week after their Swiss neighbours rejected it. The treaty is intended to bring the European Community and the seven member states of the European Free Trade Association into a single market. Efta groups Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein with Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland. The other Efta countries had already decided and will press on without Switzerland in their drive for a market of 380 million consumers, stretching from Norway's North Cape to Gibraltar.

## Polar profits cool down

POLAR, the marketer and distributor of electronic components, reported pre-tax profits of £902,000 (£917,000) in the year to October 2. Turnover rose to £17.4 million (£15.4 million) but higher interest charges of £64,000 (£7,000) depressed profits. Earnings were 7.3p (7.4p) a share. An unchanged final dividend of 2.5p a share makes an unchanged total of 4.5p. Polar Electronics has been appointed Yamaha's sole distributor in the UK for sound synthesiser and graphics chips.

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# Eastern signs five-year deal for coal power

■ A deal between Eastern Electricity and PowerGen over coal-fired power points the way to five-year contracts between distributors and generators

By PATRICIA TEAHAN

EASTERN Electricity, the biggest of the 12 regional electricity companies in England and Wales, has signed a five-year deal for coal-fired power, increasing the pressure on the other companies to sign coal contracts with the generators to help to safeguard miners' jobs.

Eastern has signed with PowerGen, the smaller of the two generators, for 21 terawatt hours of electricity, equivalent to more than eight million tonnes of coal. The deal is worth more than £100 million a year.

The contract is for 40 per cent of Eastern's share of the coal-fired power currently under negotiation between the regional companies and the power generators. That deal is for a total 40 million tonnes

Jim Keathane, commercial director of East Midlands, is heading a team negotiating on behalf of the regional companies.

East Midlands said it remained keen to do a five-year deal "because we think that means stability and would not preclude any supplementary arrangements that may be required".

Eastern first made it clear it was negotiating its own deal last month when it signed heads of agreement with the two generators.

Mr Smith said: "We believe that there is an advantage to being first in this in terms of getting the best price, related to matching our load profile to the generation available."

In the deal with PowerGen, Eastern has become the first of the regional companies to persuade a generator to provide a hedge against the cost of electricity in the pool, or spot market. Ed Walsh, chief executive of PowerGen, said the contract with Eastern was a further demonstration of PowerGen's determination to conclude a satisfactory contract with British Coal.

Sources involved in the talks said they are being held up because there are still too many uncertainties. They say a deal is unlikely before the middle of January.

Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, has written to Neil Clarke, British Coal's chairman, arguing the case for a one-year deal to carry the coal industry over its present period of uncertainty.

But yesterday, Mr Clarke gave a warning that a one-year coal contract would not be enough to secure the future of the coal industry.

Despite the fact that the weekend accord opened the way for a second Danish referendum, there was little support against the Danish crown.

Mr Woods said that "only a radical transformation" of the market for coal would save a significant number of the 31 collieries on the company's original closure list.

## Heseltine to present awards

By OUR CITY STAFF

MICHAEL Heseltine, the trade secretary, will be guest speaker and present awards at the new Coopers & Lybrand awards dinner held in association with The Times.

The annual event, formerly known as the USM awards but now extended to fully listed companies, will take place on March 11 at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London.

The awards are open to companies with a market capitalisation of up to £200 million. This covers about 1,800 companies, or 80 per cent of all quoted stocks.

Awards will be presented in six categories, including, for the first time, the best performing small company fund.

COOPERS & LYBRAND PLC AWARDS

THE COOPERS & LYBRAND PLC AWARDS

## Iran lifts output by Opec

A surge in Iranian oil production last month pushed Opec output to its highest since 1980, the Middle East Economic Survey reported. Opec produced 25.49 million barrels a day. The cartel agreed in November to limit production to 24.582 million barrels a day from December until the end of March.

Iran's output reached 3.835 million barrels a day in November, 215,000 above October's level. Kuwait, too, increased output by about 100,000 barrels a day, to an estimated 1.45 million. Oil prices last week fell to \$17.65 a barrel for Brent crude.

### Telfos lifts stake

Telfos Holdings, the British subsidiary of Austria's Jenbacher Transportsysteme, has raised its stake in Ganz-Hunslut of Hungary from 51 to 100 per cent. The purchase price was not disclosed.

### Morland changes

Jasper Clutterbuck, chief executive of Morland, the brewer, is to become executive chairman when Sir Humphrey Prudeaux, the chairman, retires on February 1. Martin May-Smith will be deputy.

### Pelican ahead

Pelican, a London restaurant group, increased pre-tax profits by 17.3 per cent to £357,000 (£131,000) in the six months to September 30. Turnover rose to £3.8 million (£2.8 million). Earnings per share were 1.9p (1.1p). There is no interim dividend (nil).

### Losses reduced

British Bio-technology cut its losses from £5.7 million to £4.72 million in the half year to October 31. Losses per share fell from 23.2p to 14.3p. The share price was unchanged at 430p.

# Doubts on economy deter investors

SHARE prices started the new three-week trading account, which will carry them into 1993, on an uncertain note. Investors wanted to comb this week's glut of economic data for the faintest signs of recovery before making a move.

Without a lead from financial futures, the equity market was left to its own devices for much of the day, making it difficult for traders to establish a trend.

Only an early mark-up on Wall Street enabled London to finish the session in positive territory. The FT-SE 100 index ended 5.6 points up at 2,721.8. Turnover was described as "pitifully thin"; by the close only 438 million shares had changed hands.

Among the leaders, Reuters was an early casualty, falling 18p to £13.33 after a bad press in the US, where its shares enjoy a large following. The American business press says the group's new Globex computerised trading system for foreign exchange and commodities markets is not enjoying the growth that was hoped for.

There were a few buyers around for British Gas, up 6p at 271.2p. The shares were a weak market last week, after a suggestion by Ofgas, the regulatory body, that the group should substantially reduce the rate of return on its gas pipeline business. It is feared that the proposal may be enforced by the government.

Tarmac, a takeover favourite, suffered a setback: the shares fell 5p to 100p. BZW is said to take an increasingly pessimistic line on the group's prospects.

Hopes of a white knight emerging to save Evode, which makes Eostik glue, from the clutches of Wassall appear to be fading. The Evode share price slipped 2p

to 94p; Wassall was unchanged at 187p.

BAE, the airport operator, firmed 1p to 782p. Passengers handled in November increased almost 4 per cent to 5.3 million. But traffic figures at Gatwick dropped by 1.4 per cent after the closure of Dan-Air's charter operations.

British Airways, which acquired Dan-Air, eased 2p to 280p as the European Commission decided to launch an enquiry into the takeover. The move follows a request by Belgium, which invoked special clauses in merger rules never used before.

Fisons firmed 2p to 212p after announcing plans to dispose of its consumer health business to Roche, the Swiss pharmaceuticals group. The sale of the business, including Sanatogen vitamins, will raise £90 million. In November, Fisons sold its US consumer health operations to Ciba-Geigy for £93 million. Berke-

ley, the housebuilder, responded to better-than-expected half-year figures with a jump of 20p to 290p. Pre-tax profits were up from £5.4 million to £6.9 million on a 39 per cent increase in the number of houses sold, in spite of continuing decline in the housing market.

Even so, some brokers are convinced that C&W may

top to 294p after raising its interim dividend by 11.4 per cent to 4.9p, despite a £4 million drop in interim pre-tax profits to £35.2 million. The group recently changed its broker and has enjoyed strong support in the US after applying for a New York share listing. Robert Montague, the chairman, said: "strong cash flow and dividend cover gave scope for a higher payout."

Cable & Wireless shrugged off recent weakness to finish the session 20p higher at 667p. The market took the view that the shares have been oversold. American buying helped to boost turnover to more than 2.5 million shares.

C&W's price has been de-

pressed by political uncertainty in Hong Kong. Much of C&W's earnings come from its Hong Kong Telecom subsidiary, and there are worries about its prospects once the Chinese take over the colony after 1997.

County NatWest has been telling clients that the shares enjoy a premium rating, but the political risk in Hong Kong could prove dear.

Even so, some brokers are

convinced that C&W may

begin switching out of BT, down 5p to 280p after going ex-dividend. Brokers and fund managers will be happy to see that BT share price driven lower, ahead of the £5 billion sale of the government's remaining tranches of stock. The water companies put up a

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Cable & Wireless

reached 667p in reversion to Friday's profit downgrading by Smith New Court, the company's joint broker. Smith cut its forecast for 1992 by £19 million to £191 million and for 1993 by £10 million to £220 million. UBS Phillips & Drew and Hoare Govett are thought to have cut their estimates by a bigger margin.

surprisingly resilient performance despite the fact that no less than six of the ten main companies had gone ex-dividend.

These included Northumbrian, 3p better at 550p; North West, which finished unchanged at 470p, after falling to 463p; Severn Trent, 1p lighter at 449p; South West, 1p easier at 484p;

Welsh, steady at 511p; and Yorkshire, unchanged at 508p.

County NatWest, in its review of utilities, expects the sector to continue drifting in the course of this account, as the ex-dividends take their toll.

The electricity distributors have nothing to establish to any real trading pattern and County says that in the weeks ahead the sector will remain vulnerable to the energy review negotiations.

Dividend growth of between 11 per cent and 14 per cent remains their primary attraction with both institutional and private investors.

There were losses for Eastland, 1p to 396p; East Midland, 1p to 406p; Midland, 2p to 444p; North West, 3p to 450p; and South West, 2p to 429p; Southern was unchanged on 421p and there were gains for Northern, 2p to 441p; Seaboard, 1p to 429p; and Yorkshire, 1p to 462p.

London finished 7p lower at 410p and Marwell 7p lower at 461p after both went ex-dividend.

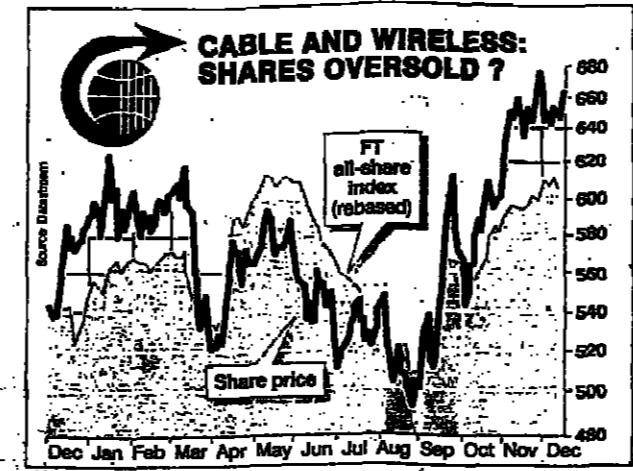
But County is more concerned about the outlook for the power generators, which were hit by last week's Offer report on economic purchase.

The regulator remains unconvinced that the contracts recently offered to the electricity distributors were at prices that could be easily justified.

The sector is expected to come under increasing scrutiny during the next month, and it is unlikely that much of the news will be positive.

National Power shrugged off last week's setback to firm 2p to 271p, while Powergen rose 4p to 272p, Scottish Power 3p to 233p, and Scottish Hydro 2p to 251p.

MICHAEL CLARK



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MICHAEL CLARK

## Nikkei loses ground as credit hopes fade

Tokyo — Selling of steel and blue-chip high-tech issues depressed the market as investors' hopes of an early credit easing faded. "Pension and insurance funds aren't buying as actively as people expected and investors have nothing to do with it," said Masahiko Tsuyuzaki, of Tachibana Securities. The Nikkei index fell 166.9 points to 17,274.12.

□ New York — Shares eased slightly in early trade. Analysts said the market was preparing for the traditional "Santa Claus rally" in the last four trading days of the year and the first two of the new year.

Towards the end of the morning, the Dow Jones industrial average was off 1.62 points at 3,302.46.

□ Frankfurt — The market fell for the fifth day running, ending at its lowest for almost two months. The Dax index shed 6.26 points to finish the day at 1,469.75.

□ Hong Kong — Prices ended firmer in a day of dull trading. The Hang Seng index ended 14.55 points higher at 5,267.73.

□ Singapore — The Straits Times index eased 2.05 points to 1,445.52.

□ Sydney — Early price falls were reversed and the all-ordinates index closed 11.8 points up at 1512.4. (Reuter)

Times Wire

## COMMENT

## Tears, in theory, for Mr Gaidar

Russia's change of prime minister will doubtless be greeted as a blow to reform. Yegor Gaidar, author of the rush to the free market, has given way to Viktor Chernomyrdin, an apparatchik who used to be in charge of the appallingly run gas industry. At this stage, the regrets of outsiders should be as theoretical as Mr Gaidar's policies, which put the textbook ahead of human nature. Western advisers should have told reformers a truth that rarely appears in theory. The basic test of any economic policy move anywhere is not whether one system yields a better result than another, but how people will react to the change, since that will determine its effect in the real world. In Britain, tax reforms that ignored this rule have sometimes had the opposite effect to that intended. In Russia, the perverse effects have been more drastic, routing the country's path to the West via the Third World.

The aim of removing absurd subsidies on basic commodities in the former Soviet Union was to relate prices to costs and thereby stimulate the supply of goods to the public. In Russia, administered prices simply went up. Often, prices charged in the black market, which were just as artificial, became the norm. The effect on people's living standards therefore swamped benefits from making relative prices more realistic. Everyone demanded more money, producing hyper-inflation. Instead of raising and speeding the supply of goods, the inflation brought by reform led to hoarding. The old bureaucratic distribution systems broke down long before the tiny free market was able to take over.

As the UN economic commission for Europe has pointed out, switching to free markets itself needs planning. Price and pay incentives need to go at the same pace as reform of management and the creation of the institutional framework for free markets. Russia had plenty of spivs but not enough venturers to take the reins of its economy overnight. When the new regime looks west, it might look at how capitalist takeover kings operate. They understand that people who know a business are needed to run it. When axing discredited top management, they seek and promote managers in lower tiers who are capable and hungry enough to adapt to new methods and new goals. If such people cannot be found in Russian state enterprises, there is little hope.

## Pension pointers

Replies to Professor Roy Goode's post-Maxwell enquiry into pension fund reform, due to reach his committee by today, have proved as varied as their authors. There is hardly any universal agreement on anything. Given that, four themes have emerged. Sufficient changes in law are needed for a pensions bill to be a high priority for the government programme. This bill should also co-ordinate existing legislation but need not scrap everything and start again.

The rules on boards of trustees are far too weak. Management rightly plays a vital part, but it should not control trustees. Independent trustees should play a greater role, take more responsibility and have stronger rights to information, much as envisaged for non-executive directors in the Cadbury boardroom code. The weakness in pension law pales beside weakness in its enforcement. A pensions regulator is needed to monitor returns, relate to trustees and, if necessary, intervene. By contrast, it would be counter-productive to rely on a compensation fund, since this would weaken the drive to prevent abuse. Pension funds are not an industry in which such a spurious back-up might be justified to encourage competition by new entrants. If companies cannot meet stringent rules, employees would be better off investing in personal pensions.

The European Court is poised to give its Sunday shopping ruling, but Jon Ashworth believes it will be months before the issue is resolved

The timing is ironic. The European Court has chosen the busiest shopping period of the year to pass judgment on the thorny issue of Sunday trading. The Luxembourg verdict is due out tomorrow.

So many shops and stores are now prepared to open on Sunday during the festive season compared with a year ago, and so desperate are retailers for another day's takings, that the impact of the ruling is almost certain to be swept aside in the rush for Christmas profits. Only the threat of injunctions by local authorities in the event of a negative ruling could stem the tide.

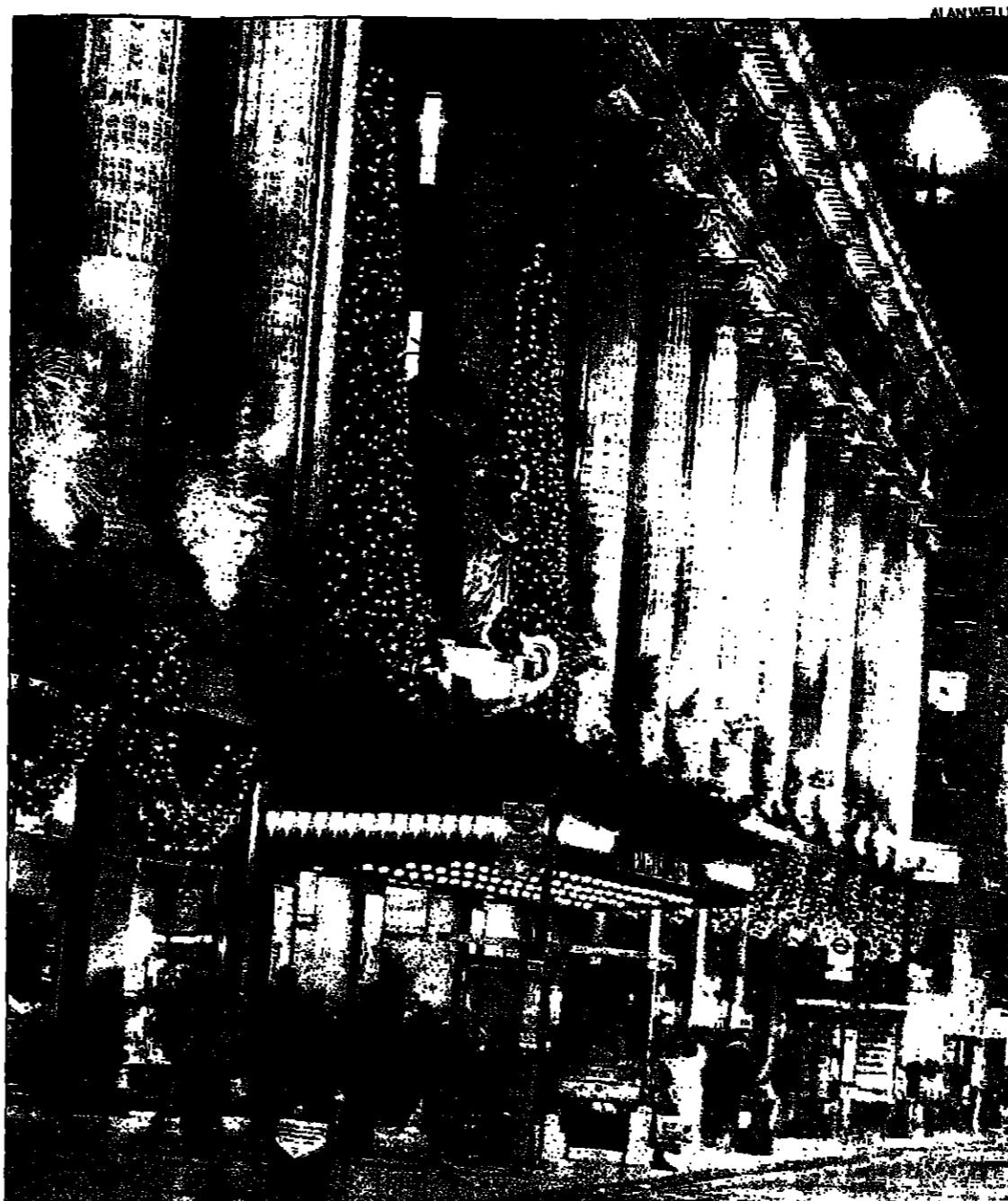
It is likely to be months before the uncertainty over Sunday trading is clarified once and for all. The European Court's decision must be addressed by the House of Lords, and there are fears that the issue may not be resolved in time for next Christmas.

The trickle of stores prepared to open on Sunday has become a torrent. At first, it was just do-it-yourself chains such as B&Q. Last year, Tesco, Safeway, Asda and Sainsbury opened on Sunday in England and Wales in the weeks leading up to Christmas and have continued trading on Sunday on a limited scale throughout 1992. This Christmas, most of the high street names — with notable exceptions such as C&A, Marks and Spencer and the John Lewis Partnership — have decided to follow their example.

For the first time in its 83-year history, Selfridges, owned by Sears, decided to open between noon and 5pm on the two Sundays before Christmas. Harrods is shut on Sunday, but 52 of 62 stores in the House of Fraser group, including DH Evans, Dickens & Jones and Army & Navy, decided to open from 11am to 5pm on the four Sundays preceding Christmas for the first time.

Even Kendals of Manchester, claimed to be the oldest department store in the world (established 1796), is following the others. A House of Fraser spokesman said: "We decided with some reluctance to put our toe into Sunday trading. We are not great fans of Sunday trading as a cure-all for retailing woes."

Kwik Save, the UK's largest discount grocery retailer, reluctantly announced plans to open its 780 foodstores on the penultimate two Sundays — December 13 and December 20 — because so many other retailers were doing so. It took the step "to protect our competitive position during this concentrated trading period" but remained open on unrestricted Sunday trading, saying that, ultimately, it "would lead to higher food costs and the demise of the British high street".



Window of opportunity: Selfridges in Oxford Street, which is offering Sunday trading for the first time

The decision by converts such as Sears and House of Fraser to open on Sunday has put immense pressure on competitors to follow suit. They need only look to the success of supermarket groups such as Sainsbury, which has more than a million customers each Sunday and estimates that UK sales have risen by about 1 per cent as a result.

This time last year, only a few dozen branches of Boots were open for business on Sunday. This Christmas, the number has swelled to about 300 stores. Most of the 222 Do-It-All stores, jointly-owned by Boots and WH Smith, are open on Sundays throughout the year.

City analysts are divided on the benefits of Sunday trading. Most agree that it suits the DIY stores, but think the stores groups are, at best, breaking even on the day. Many are compelled to open because their competitors are doing so, making Sunday trading more a matter of market share than profits. Only a percentage of branches will prove commercially viable on a Sunday and

retailers are still experimenting to get the formula right. Food retailers can see less obvious benefits. Michael Bourke, food retail analyst at Panmure Gordon, said: "Any addition to overall sales is tiny, but selling goods which would otherwise have been marked down on Saturday means less wastage and is helping them run their stores more efficiently."

Marks and Spencer, C&A and John Lewis are three of the biggest names not to follow the crowd. M&S is opening stores in Scotland, where Sunday trading is legal, and is countering Sunday opening in England and Wales by extending shopping times during the week. For the second year, M&S is supporting its stance with a prominent advertising campaign. A free telephone service advising customers of extended store opening times took more than 6,000 calls on its first day. A spokesman for M&S emphasised that the only reason it would not open

some or all of its 300 high street stores on Sunday was to comply with the law. He said: "We are very disappointed that the government hasn't acted until now." M&S is backing a plan that would allow convenience stores of up to 3,000 square feet to trade on Sunday without restrictions on hours. The proposals would allow DIY stores and garden centres to open on Sundays regardless of their size and permit anybody to trade on the four Sundays before Christmas.

John Lewis, which owns the Waitrose chain of supermarkets, is urging the government to move quickly to end the controversy surrounding Sunday trading. It will not open on Sunday at present for the same reason as M&S, but the stance comes at a price. Waitrose is estimated to be sacrificing £1 million a week in lost sales by not opening on Sunday.

The inability of the British courts to decide whether the 1950 legislation which governs Sunday trading is incompatible with free trade principles

plies of European Community law led Britain's highest appeal court to refer the issue back to the European Court in Luxembourg for the second time in two years in May. The appeal court was seeking further clarification on the tests it should run on the legality of the Shops Act 1950.

While confusion persists, stores continue to open their doors seven days a week. Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, has put forward three proposals to help to end the "uncertainties and anomalies" of Sunday trading. The first is for total deregulation which would place the law in England and Wales on the same basis as that in Scotland and give retailers freedom of choice. The government tried and failed to bring in total deregulation in 1986.

The second, favoured by Shopping Hours Reform Council (SHRC), would allow small shops to open at any time on Sunday and larger shops to open for up to six hours. The third, proposed by the Keep Sunday Special campaign, would prohibit all Sunday trading except for shops catering for recreation, emergencies, social gatherings and travel. Local authorities would have the final say on whether any shop should be allowed to open on Sunday.

Ray Powell, a Welsh Labour MP, has tabled a private member's bill which proposes to restrict Sunday trading even further. The bill is due to have its second reading next month, but may be overtaken by the Clarke proposals, rushed through to head off the threat. Work has begun on a bill providing a mechanism for Parliament to vote on the proposals. The bill would contain clauses to provide protection for existing shopkeepers from being compelled to work on a Sunday if they did not wish to.

A poll done for the SHRC by Mori in October showed that four out of five people felt that shops should be allowed to open on Sundays during the run-up to Christmas. The percentage had risen from 74 per cent to 81 per cent since a similar survey in 1991. In an earlier Mori poll, conducted in September, just under three-quarters of participants had visited a shop on a Sunday in the previous four-week period. The most popular trip was to a petrol station and motor spares shop, followed by visits to confectioners, newsagents and tobacconists. Just under a quarter had visited DIY stores and food supermarkets.

The greyness of the law continues to tie up the courts. Four B&Q employees from Densbury, West Yorkshire, are suing their local council for lost wages after the store was forced to close for a period last year. The women lost their part-time jobs for ten weeks last year after Kirklees council secured an injunction forcing the DIY chain's branch to close.

The store has since reopened for Sunday trading. In September, the four sought an injunction at Bradford County Court to prevent the council taking new action that might cost them their jobs once more. The application and the wages claim are due to be heard in the High Court next month.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY



## Blind date for a princess

THE Daily Star, desperate to leave no stone unturned in its coverage of the Prince and Princess of Wales, has gone husband-hunting for the princess and turned up her "dream blind date" from a dating agency. Step forward Chris Matthews, joint managing director of Sandwick Consultants, described in the paper as "a well-heeled high-flier with a passion for beautiful blondes". The princess's personal details were fed to the Dateline computer under an assumed name. The agency trawled its databases and turned up Matthews, also described by the paper as "a hunkier version of Di's close pal and confidante James Gilbey", as the ideal match. The next thing Sandwick knew, the paper's reporter and photographer were at the company's City headquarters. Matthews, in a display of admirable sang froid, merely commented: "I'm just pleased that fame has come to me before I'm too old to enjoy it." A purported "By Royal Appointment" plaque has already gone up in his office.

## Happy Eurospeak

AN AWARD for inventiveness in the corporate Christmas card must surely go to Blackstone Franks, the City accountant, for its A4, wordy and amusing dig at EC bureaucracy that is couched in Eurospeak. "It has become apparent that many Xmas cards are wasted because they do not conform to the socio-religious



orientation of the recipients," it announces, "resulting in the so-called Xmas card mountain". There follows an annex to the Maastricht treaty to harmonise Christmas card procedures. Failure to report to the new interim Christmas Card Regional Unemployment Directorate (CCRUD) at the Bundespost by January 31, it threatens, can result in the Commission imposing fines of up to 10 per cent of aggregate group Xmas card output. Lance Blackstone, the senior partner, says he dreamt up the idea in the bath, got hold of an EC directive and adapted it. "Frankly, our Christmas card is a lot more comprehensible," he claims. He has sent it to Jacques Delors, John Major and all MEPs. "They should welcome a touch of humour."

## Coin for Bosnia

AFTER making the first euro coin for Gibraltar, Pobjoy Mint in Sutton, Surrey, is to produce an historic coin for Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is

worth 14 ecus and is claimed to be the first coin to carry a charitable surcharge: two ecus to be divided between Unicef and the Red Cross to help Bosnian citizens. The coin's design incorporates the bridge of Mostar, built in 1566, said to be the only one now left standing in war-torn Mostar, and the reverse shows the old city centre in Sarajevo and a symbolic dove of peace.

## Wikner's headache

SO HOW did Hugh Wikner, of Strauss Turnbull, the London broker, acquire 16 stitches in his head last week? Wikner assures us there was nothing untoward. Last Monday, his taxi collided with another outside Wood Street police station, from where he was taken to Bart's. "The surgeon said it wasn't a cut, it was a slice. I was effectively scalped," Wikner says. He nevertheless remained at his post to see through Tiny Rowland's headline-grabbing share sale — and is now paying the price with numbing pain. "It was a memorable deal — for all the wrong reasons," he says.

I presume that our modern Keynesians will have studied the papers of this committee, since Keynes was not only the then government's chief economic adviser but the committee's chairman. The one thing that they did not recommend was that we should abandon the gold standard! A 10 per cent tariff on all imports (for which no staff or machinery existed) seemed to be the preferred solution!

Needs must when the devil drives! The Labour party effectively destroyed itself for years to come by refusing to follow the papers of the period which we used to call the Great Depression of 1929-32? True, we then had a Labour government without a majority in Parliament. But it had won what everyone then saw as a great victory at the 1929 election and could, therefore, act quickly. Without Thatcherism or any other ism to live down, they were able to resort to their committee of conflicting economic advisers before their Black Wednesday. This was, of course, that on which they were forced to abandon the gold standard to which we had returned six years before.

I presume that our modern Keynesians will have studied the papers of this committee, since Keynes was not only the then government's chief economic adviser but the committee's chairman. The one thing that they did not recommend was that we should abandon the gold standard! A 10 per cent tariff on all imports (for which no staff or machinery existed) seemed to be the preferred solution!

That is a different half-game. The Treasury has simply chosen a team of old boys to give it a regular fixture list of games to the old (and thoroughly discredited) rules. Yours sincerely, J. M. PICK, 23 Maybourne Grange, Turnpike Link, Croydon, Surrey.

## Coffin humour

From Mr Clive Hereward Sir, Jon Ashworth got the joke about the vicar, the solicitor and the accountant's response in their friend's dying wish nearly right. (Any Other Business, December 10). The accountant said: "Don't worry, I'll make up the difference." He took the £13,500 in cash out of the coffin, and put in the £30,000 — by cheque. Yours faithfully, CLIVE HEREWARD, Bankfield, Arden Road, Dordridge, Solihull, West Midlands.

DEBRA ISAAC

## Lessons in history for wise men of the Treasury

From Sir John Walley Sir, So the government has, at last, taken refuge in the appointment of a group of leading economists (of differing views) to find the way out of our present troubles! The memories of those now involved, including their critics, do not go back far enough. Ought they not to be studying the papers of the period which we used to call the Great Depression of 1929-32? True, we then had a Labour government without a majority in Parliament. But it had won what everyone then saw as a great victory at the 1929 election, in a drastic programme of cuts and additional taxation which no present-day economist or politician would contemplate. The odd thing is that it seems to have achieved its objects. The pound held its new rate and, by the time I became a secretary of the cabinet committee on unemployment in 1932, this too was on the mend. And there was no inflation!

Yours sincerely, JOHN WALLEY, Brookland House, 24 High Street, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire.

over a relatively long period — because he restarted his formal economic projections in early 1991.

PETER MARSH, Financial Times, 1 Southwark Bridge, SE1.

From Miss J.M. Pick Sir, The seven new "Treasury Terriers" who are already being referred to in your business section as "wise men", are all duly orthodox economists, all talking of monetarism, all too preoccupied with short-term figure-juggling to take in the longer, broader, deeper, view that takes in the laws and limits associated with the finite nature of things, principally, the energy question.

That is a different half-game. The Treasury has simply chosen a team of old boys to give it a regular fixture list of games to the old (and thoroughly discredited) rules. Yours faithfully, J. M. PICK, 23 Maybourne Grange, Turnpike Link, Croydon, Surrey.

From Mr Peter Marsh Sir, Janet Bush in her article (December 9) refers to Wynne Godley being left out of a survey in October by the Financial Times of the forecasting accuracy of 41 groups of economists. Professor Godley was omitted from the study because to be included in this — as the details of the survey made clear — economists had to have published forecasts regularly from early 1990 onwards. Professor Godley, along with several other forecasting groups, was therefore disqualified from this particular survey — the purpose of which was to measure forecasting accuracy

## Rates still high

From Mr Simon Bagott Sir, I see that inflation is down to 3 per cent, while Mr Lamont said on December 10 that he has no immediate plans to reduce base rate below its current level of 7 per cent.

Accordingly, the real interest rate remains at 4 per cent, which is precisely where it was when base rate was 15 per cent and inflation stood at 11 per cent.

By this deliberate continuation of a severely deflationary policy, the government can continue to expect to preside over increasing unemployment and business failures for many months to come.

Yours faithfully, SIMON D. BAGOTT, 112 Chorley Road, Sheffield.

## Abbey shares

From Mrs Margaret Clarke Sir, Further to the Rev John D. Rawlings letter (December 10) there were two further categories who lost out in the original distribution of Abbey National shares.

These were where the first named trustee of a charity account also had an account in his or her own name and the charity lost its right to any shares, and also, the estate of a deceased holder had no entitlement.

Now is the time for the first of these omissions to be rectified.

Yours faithfully, M. CLARKE (Certified Accountant), 67 Headley Drive, Epsom, Surrey.

Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 8 October 1992 NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable on or after 15 December 1992.

Gross Distribution per unit  
Less 15% USA Withholding Tax

2,000 Cents  
0-3000 Cents

Converted at \$1-58

Claims should be lodged with the DEPOSITORY: National Westminster Bank PLC, Basement, Juno Court, 24 Prescot Street, London E1 8BB on special forms obtainable from the Office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Dated 15 December 1992



Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 8 October 1992 NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable on or after 15 December 1992.

Gross Distribution per unit<br

## Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card, check your eight share price movements for the last eight days. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won over 50p. If not, you have lost. If you have won over 50p, you will receive a £1.50 prize money. If you win, follow the details recorded on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Code or last
1	BAT	Tobacco	
2	Lonrho	Industrial	
3	Russell (A)	Industrial	
4	Whesley	Industrial	
5	Low Ind	Industrial	
6	BTX	Industrial	
7	Independent Newspaper	Newspaper	
8	Kennard	Business Serv	
9	Mirror Grp	Newspaper	
10	Reckitt Colm	Industrial	
11	Color Grp	Oil, Gas	
12	Bovis	Industrial	
13	ICI	Chemicals	
14	PowerGen	Electricity	
15	Coors Furnish	Drapery, Firs	
16	Tate & Lyle	Foods	
17	Cap & Regn	Property	
18	Castrol Plc	Business Serv	
19	Nat Aust Bk	Banks/Div	
20	Smith David	Paper, Print	
21	Advocet	Newspaper	
22	Capita Group	Business Serv	
23	Rolls-Royce	Motors/Air	
24	RITZ	Mining	
25	Microgen	Electrical	
26	Demansia El	Electrical	
27	HSBC	Banks/Div	
28	Lain	Industrial	
29	Videx	Industrial	
30	Smith & Neph	Industrial	
31	Korffmans (B)	Tobacco	
32	Burton's Bw	Breweries	
33	Caledonia	Finance, Land	
34	Mayborn	Industrial	
35	Sedgwick	Insurance	
36	Sero Grp	Business Serv	
37	ISS Group	Industrial	
38	Lloyds	Banks/Div	
39	Southern Prop	Property	
40	IMI	Industrial	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

Please take into account any minus signs

## £1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53277 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

Two winners equally share the Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. Mr J Carson, London NW3 and Mr B Angle, Newbury, Berks.

High	Low	Company	Price	div	Net Yld	%	P/E
152	145	Abellio Rd	355	1.0	10.5	10	12
153	145	Allied Ind	355	1.0	10.5	10	12
154	145	Amcor	355	1.0	10.5	10	12
155	145	Amcor New Z	125	1.1	13	13	12
156	145	Amcor New Z	125	1.1	13	13	12
157	145	Amcor New Z	125	1.1	13	13	12
158	145	Amcor New Z	125	1.1	13	13	12
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232	145	Amcor New Z	125	1.1	13	13	12
233	145	Amcor New Z	125	1.1	13	13	12
234	145	Amcor New Z	125				



**PANTO page 26**  
Alan Ford is the Dame in a traditional Christmas show at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East

# ARTS

**OPERA page 27**

John Fisher: a British lion in Venice, he is conducting at Covent Garden for the first time



ARCHITECTURE: Marcus Binney detects a sea-change in attitude to the much-derided suburban semi-detached

## Genuine affection for Mock Tudor

**S**corn and ridicule have always been the lot of the suburban semi. Even Osbert Lancaster, who wrote with wistful affection of styles such as Wimbledon Transitional, Bankers' Georgian and Pseudish, could only revile what he dubbed Bypass Variegated.

To D.H. Lawrence they were "horrid little red mantraps"; for W.H. Auden they stood "isolated from each other like cases of fever". Clough Williams-Ellis, one of the first great campaigners against urban sprawl, claimed "they were mean and perky little houses that surely none but mean and perky little souls could inhabit with satisfaction". In 1942 a handy Penguin book entitled *Living in Cities*, distributed to British troops, listed Mock Tudor and Imitation Classic among the crimes of the century.

Today the semi has its champions, and none too soon. A tide of plastic windows and DIY alterations is robbing By-pass Variegated of its authentic trim.

First came Alan A. Jackson in his *Semi-detached London* (1973), re-issued in 1991 with numerous illustrations of contemporary advertisements and postcards; and then the engaging polemic of *Dunroamin: The Suburban Semi and its Enemies* by Paul Oliver, Ian Davis and Ian Bentley. "You live in one of Edgware's semis? Better move to a more civilised address, like Camden Town," Davis was told at architectural school.

Yet measured in terms of building homes where people live in long after the first tower blocks have gone, inter-war suburbia is an impressive achievement. Lloyd George had won an election in 1918 on the promise of providing "homes for heroes". Up to 400,000 houses were held to be needed immediately. A committee was established under the MP Sir John Tudor Walters (the Tudor was to be unexpectedly appropriate) to recommend patterns and densities.

For large blocks of tenements and flats, Tudor Walters said, "no advocate appeared". Flats were out, setting England on a very different path from continental Europe.

Between 1918 and 1939 over 4,170,000 houses were built. To the American writer Herbert Gray, England's success in housing the people was "an accomplishment that history will class as one of civilisation's greatest strides".

As early as 1902 H.G. Wells had imagined how the revolution in communications, the railway, the Underground, the telephone and telegraph, could turn all Britain, south of the Highlands into one vast urban region. Wells foresaw horse suburbs, "smart white gates and palings everywhere"; gardening suburbs, "gables, roses and holly hedges"; golf districts among heathery moorlands; and river districts "with gaily painted boathouses peeping from the osiers".

The origin of the semi can be traced back to the Eyre Estate in London's St John's Wood. Here the auctioneers, Spratt & Phipps, drew up a plan in 1794 for an estate of semi-detached houses laid out around a circus crescent and square, though this was not developed until the 1830s-1840s.

Later, the Victorian and Edwardian practice of building extensions behind houses, back to back, led to houses being built in pairs, with alleys in between providing access to garden and dustbins.

But it was Tudor Walters who determined one of inter-war suburbia's most distinct characteristics: the wide road flanked by grass verges, pavements and front gardens. In an age when tuberculosis was rampant, it was held that sunlight was necessary to health, and that every room must have its quota of sunlight. In London, Tudor Walters calculated an open space of 70 feet was necessary to ensure that sunlight would reach ground-floor front rooms at noon on December 25. Forgetting the peasoupers that were prevalent at the time, this standard was adopted throughout the country. The broad verges also provided an easy path for gas, electricity and water mains.

A second characteristic of semi-detached suburbia was that the houses had no basement. One of the first estates to dispense with this had been Bedford Park in Chiswick, birthplace of the Queen Anne revival, with the gables and bay windows that later became hallmarks of the semi. A version of Queen Anne, with square bay windows and Surrey-style tiling adorning the facades, was adopted between the wars. But the style that became ubiquitous was Tudor.

Tudor can indeed be claimed as the most popular British style of the 20th century. It may have meant no more than a few crooked



Small world, small semi and small car, in an unidentified outer London suburb in the 1930s. From Alan A. Jackson's *Semi-detached London*, second edition, 1991

floorboards applied to a front (actual half-timbered construction was banned), but it distinguished owner-occupiers from nearby council estates. It evoked domestic and Merrie England. To the new *Ideal Home* magazine, in 1922, "the English half-timbered home" seemed to epitomise the traditions of the race."

A persistent criticism of the semi was that it was Jerry-built, precisely what the charge made against much of Georgian London (which, like the semi, survives today, as popular as ever). With this goes the charge that poor design resulted from the unwillingness of many building firms to use architects. If this charge is true, the blame must be laid at the door of the Royal Institute of British Architects, which in 1922 amended its code to prevent its members from undertaking dev-

elopment, defining practice in a way that would have debarred the activities of John Wood in Bath, or John Nash in Regent Street.

Since late Victorian times small builders had been able to obtain house plans almost by return of post, simply by writing to the *Illustrated Carpenter and Builder* with their requirements. However, Professor Jeremy Whitehead, of Birmingham University, who has just launched a major survey of inter-war suburbia, believes "architects will prove to have a much larger role in designing semis than previously thought". He goes on:

"Research on Edwardian housing has shown that many of the drawings in planning offices are signed by architects." Certainly the modern versions with wrap-round metal windows were designed by architects, notably by Welch,

Cachemaille-Day and Lander.

Though price was critical, a surprising amount of ornamental trim went with many semis, notably stained glass in the front door and porch windows and often in the upper lights of bay windows. Inside halfways, Old England may have ruled, but often the stained panelling and picture rails have a distinct kinship with Frank Lloyd Wright's early houses in Chicago.

The main selling point was the labour-saving kitchen — the three-bedroomed semi, unlike most Edwardian counterparts, was built for a life without servants. Undoubtedly the semi, compared with the terraced house, was wasteful of land, but this is ironically not a lesson that has been learnt. The same criticism can be made of new

towns, business parks and executive estates today.

Monotony is also undeniable. Fine trees were too rarely retained, and when new trees were planted they were usually smaller varieties such as cherries, rather than the great forest trees which enable similar housing estates in much of America and Holland.

If suburbia is tedious and regimented it is infinitely better than "shacklands" such as Peacehaven on the Sussex coast, where plots were sold to individual owners to build what they liked. It is only when you obtain a vantage point or look at the suburbs from the air that the sheer formality of the semi, compared with the terraced house, was wasteful of land, but this is ironically not a lesson that has been learnt. The same

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GALLERIES: John Russell Taylor on a surprising show of British works on paper

## Terrific draughtsmen in here

A catchy title does not necessarily tell the whole story. Perhaps, if it is catchy enough, it does not need to. Take Beardsley to Bomberg, which is attached to a show of works on paper culled from the Tate Gallery's permanent collection. The period covered is 1870-1920, one which encompassed the whole headlong progression (headlong even in conservative Britain) from Victorianism to Modernism. Beardsley, strictly speaking, is right in the middle somewhere. One of the artists represented, Frederick Walker, died in 1875 when Beardsley was only three. But then, "Frederick Walker to Ethel Walker", though rather more accurate, would clearly ring far fewer bells.

It is desirable that as many bells as possible should be rung, because the show itself is so extraordinary. On the whole we associate works on paper with the British Museum rather than the Tate. But in fact this is one of those grey areas where artists might be in one or the other or both. The Tate, having responsibility for the national collection of British art, tends traditionally to hold works on paper by British artists of whom it also has a more substantial holding in oils. But further than that it also holds watercolours and drawings by artists who seldom or never did anything else, especially if they qualify as vital documents in the history of taste.

The illustrations of Beardsley certainly come under that rubric. So do such famous Max Beerbohm caricatures as "the Pre-Raphaelites and their circle," all of which are here to delight as well as, ultimately, to impress with the way that Beerbohm makes his apparently wayward and childish line do just what he wants it to.

The show begins with the generation of 1860s illustrators such as Frederick Walker, George Pinwell and J.W. North, whose precision of



Innocent depravity: Aubrey Beardsley's cover design for the *Yellow Book*, 1894. Tate Gallery

line and delicacy of touch come over even more effectively when seen in the original rather than translated into wood engraving, however skilful it was. The journeymen who did it. It then goes on to such fin-de-siècle artists as Conder, Ricketts and the less remembered illustrators such as Henry Ospovat, Philip Connard and Robert Anning Bell, who do not deserve the obscurity into which they have fallen.

And then there is Beardsley himself. The more firmly he is put into context the less he seems to belong to it — or to any context. His unfailing brilliance in manoeuvring black and white to create a dazzling array of imagined colours is all his own. So is the extraordi-

nary world of innocent depravity in which his creatures move and have their being.

Since the tremendous vogue of Beardsley in the swinging Sixties there has been, perhaps inevitably, something of a reaction. But by now his work has been lying fallow, spared the knowing over-cultivation of Carnaby Street rip-off merchants for just about long enough to let a new generation look at him with new eyes.

From 1900, 1890s "decadence" is replaced by the march of the moderns. Rather tentative, as presented here; after all, the heyday of Vorticism, Britain's own and most potent avant-garde movement of the 20th century, comes well within the time-span proposed for this

show. But there is no Wyndham Lewis, no Wadsworth, no Epstein, and only a couple of rather mild Bomberg, carefully modern without going overboard. On the other hand, further eccentric individuals such as Paul Nash, only faintly brushed by Cubism, Surrealism and other continental movements, come over very well indeed. And who would have thought that the Tate had wondrous rarities such as the haunting drawings by J.D. Innes and Maxwell Lightfoot hidden away? As a chance to see such, if nothing else, this show should not be missed.

● Bomberg to Beardsley, at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1. 071-821 1313. Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, until February 14.

## Branagh brings in the crowds for his long-distance Hamlet

THE Royal Shakespeare Company's new production of *Hamlet*, now in preview at the Barbican, has

taken the largest box-office advance for a Shakespeare play in the company's history. Takings have already topped £1 million for the production, which has Kenneth Branagh fondling poor Yorick's skull and Adrian "whether 'is" Noble directing. The fact that Branagh's face has been peering down from cinema screens all around the country in *Peter's Friends* does help, of course.

Nevertheless, his return to the RSC after eight years is the biggest theatrical event of the season, and punters will certainly get their money's worth. Small print at the bottom of the Barbican leaflet asks spectators to get to the theatre early. The production is fearlessly using the uncut text and the running time is estimated at four-and-a-half hours.

son's tenure as the United States' ambassador to France.

Last chance...

JASON DONOVAN's first concert tour since starring in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* has been a self-congratulatory affair, even if it has failed to push his version of the Herman Hupfeld standard "As Time Goes By" into the Christmas Top Ten. Still attracting a barely pubescent and highly vocal audience, the former soap star's show depends as much on his posing routines as on his songs such as "Rhythm of the Rain" and "Sealed With a Kiss". See the jacket, then the shirt come off for the last time at the Winter Gardens, Margate (0843 292795) tonight.

formally in love with him, has just finished. Edging has begun and the finished film should be shown in both Britain and America next autumn.

Meanwhile, Ismail Merchant, normally the producing arm of the team, is off to his native India to direct his first feature film, an adaptation of a novel that was short-listed for the Booker Prize. Anita Desai's *In Custody*. And the jacket is on for the right leading actor for James Ivory's next creative project, the story of Thomas Jeffer-

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## LONDON

**SWAN LAKE:** The Royal Ballet gives the penultimate performance of the season of its straightforward, traditional production of the Tchaikovsky classic. For the last three weeks, Odette/Odile and the Swans are danced by Lesley Colfer and Bruce Sampson. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2, 071-240 1069, 7.30pm.

**MADNESS:** The Nutty Boys are joined by wholesome Liverpool band, The Farm, and techno kings 808 State, who have recently provided an expert cover version of U2's 'I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For'. Wembley Arena, Wembley, Middlesex: 081-900 1234, tonight, tomorrow, 7pm.

**MESSIAH:** A performance of Handel's oratorio, organised by soprano Elizabeth Harry in aid of the homeless. Westminster Central Hall, St. Thomas' Gate, SW1 071-222 4163, 7pm.

**BILLY BROWN:** The Nutty Boys, on the road to Keith Waterhouse/Willy Hall Comedy Club, 1000 Club, London, Paul Weller plays the underdog's assessment with a burp-sounding bankey line. National (Contract), South Bank, SE1 071-928 2222, Open tonight, 7pm, tomorrow, 7.30pm, then in repertory.

**SCOTTISH BANZAI PICTURE SHOW:** The last of the year's pantomimes of the year, the annual show at the Festival Hall, now in its sixth edition, can never be faulted for lack of variety — especially since all its attractions on subject matter are aimed at the most touchy-feely and too-busy-conscious about reflecting London's ethnic varieties; the

## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment, compiled by Kari Knight

main prize winners, the year, John Dowd, Matthews and Bernadette Kerr, both hover powerfully on the edges of abstraction, and the rest range from photo-realism to abstract.

For galleries, Festival Hall, South Bank SE1 071-928 3002, Daily, 10am-10.30pm, opens today until Feb. 7.

**EDWARD THOMAS — RETURN JOURNEY:** Bob Kington's tour de force as the spelling-bee domed, post, by Anthony Hopkins. Lyric Theatre, St. James' Street, Covent Garden, WC2 071-741 8701.

Open tonight, 7pm; then most even. 8pm, mat 8.30pm, 10.45pm, until Jan. 2.

**THE SLEEPING BEAUTY:** Bryony Lavery and Nona Shephard give the play treatment to the perennial theatrical favourite, expect plenty of molly and outrage if last year's Peter Pan is anything to go by. Amanda Palk designs costumes. Drury Lane, Covent Garden, WC2 071-730 2270, Open tonight, 7pm, tomorrow, 7.30pm, then in repertory.

**REGIONAL:** BRAINSTORM: The Royal Shakespeare Company's touring production of

Richard III, directed by Sam Mendes and starring Simon Russell Beale. Bratfords Leisure Centre, Parfield Lane (booking through the Town Hall 0973 622222). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 8pm, Sun 2pm. 10pm, mat 8pm, workshop on Fri attended by Beale, 11.30am-3pm.

**LEICESTER:** Jules Bensley directs a cast of four adults and three children in Frankenstein, the Gothic tale that spawned a thousand movies.

Haymarket Studio, Belgrave Gate (0531 730077) 071-359 2050, 8pm, Wed 22, 24, 26, 28, 30.

**MANCHESTER:** Alan Garner's children's classic, *Elmer*, a life in a magic land with a batch of fantastical creatures, brought to the stage for seven years and upwards.

Coates, Oxford Road (0161-274 4400). Public performances from 2pm, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm and 12.30pm, 28, 29, 30, 31 Dec.

**OXFORD:** Daydreaming Princesses, Fairies and mischievous Tom Fool in *Fooling About*, by the team who produced last year's delightful *Magic Storybook*.

Playhouse, Beaumont Street (0865 750000). Today-Thurs, 10.45pm and 2pm, Fri 7pm, Sat, 10.15pm and 2pm, until Jan. 3.

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Granite Studios directs Shakespear's *Midsummer Night's Dream* with guitar and, apparently, a 100-strong band.

Mayflower, University Road (0703 674 7711). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 8.30pm, then at various times daily until Jan. 16.

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kesterton's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only

■ Some seats available

■ Seats at all prices

Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 10.45pm.

■ MURDER BY MISADVENTURE:

Gerald Harper and William Gant play crime writers who fall out and then fall into the miff.

Whitstable, Whitstable, SW1 071-887 1119. Mon-Fri, 8.15pm, mat 8.30pm, then 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm, 10.45pm.

■ OUR SONGS:

Peter O'Toole in *Kathleen* (written by Alan Parker) about a matriarchal family. Most interesting.

Neatly done though we only have the man's point of view.

Albion, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 071-494 6070. Mon-Fri, 8.15pm, Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm, 10.45pm.

■ WELDON RISING:

A gay's murder done in a gay bar and then found out by a straight New York dame by Philip Noyce in a nudge-nudge in the Middle Playing Players.

Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 071-730 7400. Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, mat 9.30pm, Sat, 8pm, Sun 2.30pm, 8pm, 10.45pm.

■ PROMISES:

Alan Howard, Frances Barber in a Howard Davies production that some admire greatly while others feel it's too much of a cloying comedy.

Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3833). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 8.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 8pm, 10.45pm.

■ JACK:

Philip Glenister in a David Hare production that some admire greatly while others feel it's too much of a cloying comedy.

Albion, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 071-494 5300. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 8.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 8pm, 10.45pm.

■ THE SPIDER WOMAN:

Tremendously pleasant production of the Kander & Ebb classic. It conveys the values of Manuel Puig's novel but *Chiapas* makes a striking varient.

Albion, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 071-494 5300. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 8.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 8pm, 10.45pm.

■ THE IDEAL HUSBAND:

Conrad, Hannah Gordon and Martin Shaw in Wilde's 'killer dealer' melodrama. Some dated assumptions but stylishly done.

Globe, Southwark, SE1 071-928 1010. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 8.30pm, Sun 2.30pm, 8pm, 10.45pm.

■ THE CRYING GAME:

Woman becomes obsessed with a hostage's girlfriend. Bold, powerful *Natal* Jordan film that falters at the close. Stars Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker, Jossy

Strand, Aldwych, WC2 071-930 8800.

## NEW RELEASES

■ HOME ALONE 2: LOST IN NEW YORK (PG): More of the same, with extra cruelty and a whole load of sex. Starring Macaulay Culkin, Chris Columbus. Homebox (071-638 8811) MGM/UA 071-638 5056. MGM Oxford Street (071-638 0310) Odeon, Strand, Aldwych, WC2 071-638 0425. Arch (071-638 0425) VHS End (071-925 91575) UCI Whistlers 071-782 3332.

■ INTO THE WEST (PG): Two gypsies hide a mysterious white horse into western Ireland. Wayward but engaging. Stars Gabriel Byrne, Ellen Burstyn, and Liam Neeson. Odeon Haymarket (0289 915353) TRACES OF RED (R1): Sun; murder and campion in Palm Beach. Fairly dull thriller. Director, Andy Wok. MGM Oxford Street (071-638 0310) MGM Paston Street (071-638 0331) CURRENT

■ THE CRYING GAME (15): IRA human becomes obsessed with a hostage's girlfriend. Bold, powerful *Natal* Jordan film that falters at the close. Stars Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker, Jossy

Strand, Aldwych, WC2 071-930 8800.

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friendship and innocence John Malkovich as the slow-witted Lennie; director Gary Sinise as his protector. Stephen Rea, Helen Mirren, Kenneth Branagh direct Emma Thompson, Lorraine Bracco, and Helen Mirren. London (071-925 0591) MGM/UA 071-638 1527.

■ DEATH BECOMES HER (PG):

Shirley Stelfox and Geraldine Turner in a comedy, ultimately spiced by special effects. Stars Bruce Willis, director, Robert Zemeckis.

Camden (071-357 7034) Empire (071-925 9750) Palace (071-925 9772) MGM/Fulham Road (071-370 2658) MCA/Universal (071-434 0031) UCI Whistlers (071-782 3332).

■ RIDE AND FALL OF LITTLE VIOLET:

Alastair Sim and Jane Carrington in a charming play about a shy girl's secret passion for a motherly but irreducible

Aldeburgh, Aldwych, WC2 071-638 6404. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat 8.30pm, 10.45pm.

■ THREE BIRDS ALIGHTING ON A FIELD:

Hamish Walker again in

his rôle of the slow-witted Lennie; director Gary Sinise as his protector. Stephen Rea, Helen Mirren, Kenneth Branagh direct Emma Thompson, Lorraine Bracco, and Helen Mirren. London (071-925 0591) MGM/UA 071-638 1527.

■ GLENMAGH GLENMAGH (15):

Stephen Rea, Helen Mirren, Kenneth Branagh direct Emma Thompson, Lorraine Bracco, and Helen Mirren. London (071-925 0591) MGM/UA 071-638 1527.

■ STARLIGHT:

A REMINISCENCE CLASSIC FROM ANTHONY HOPKINS

■ THE WOMAN IN BLACK:

Richard Burton and Judi Dench in a classic. Director, John Schlesinger. Empire (071-925 9772) Palace (071-925 9772) MCA/Universal (071-370 2658) MCA/Universal (071-434 0031) UCI Whistlers (071-782 3332).

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CHRISTMAS SHOWS: Jeremy Kingston joins the young critics at two London pantomimes

## Panto's dead? Oh no it isn't

MARILYN KINGWILL



That's the way to do it: the company of David Cregan's pantomime *Aladdin* at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, London E15

THERE is to be no large-scale pantomime in the West End this year but when all is said and done, such affairs can be something of an endurance test, especially when the saying and the doing takes three hours to reach the final line-up. The panto out east in S15 is generally a better bet, and this year's is the best since *Cinderella* back in 1989. Significantly, the same author, David Cregan, wrote the book and the director is again Philip Hedley.

Like other writers Cregan can give a jokey venom to his villains but he is also a dab hand at snappy lyrics and, crucially, his heroines are never soppy. Jackie Crawford's Princess is not only phenomenally pretty, a living China doll, but willful, eager for street experience and determined to get her own way. One of the show's best numbers, in foot-tapping music by Brian Protheroe, is her paean to the joys of a bath — it is on her way to the public bath-house that she will meet Aladdin. "Oh when I'm clean, when I'm clean, I shall glisten with alabaster sheen." The dozen more rhymes that follow include "water of a dirty grey-green."

The Aladdin of Benjamin Fellows is willful too, eventually proving his mettle by extorting from the traders (though without too much effort) a good price for his silver salvers. His character contrasts with the goody-goody

Rowoon of Anthony Corriente, the Princess's intended, who ends up with Aladdin's sidekick Kwai Ling, perkily

played by Tracy Harper. As the Dame remarks, "The place is full of pert girls. Per her down."

OPERA PREVIEW: Richard Morrison talks to John Fisher, conductor of Handel's *Alcina* at Covent Garden on Friday

# Italian phrasing with a Scottish accent

**H**ear the latest operatic sensation from Italy? How often have the wallets of the Covent Garden faithful been prised open with those magic words? Probably about six times a season for the last 250 years. But this Friday it is different, honestly. The latest operatic sensation from Italy happens to be British. He is John Fisher, aged 42, a Glaswegian conductor and pianist who makes his Royal Opera debut conducting Handel's *Alcina*.

Should you have heard of him? Not necessarily, unless you delight in scanning the dark and secret inwards of *Opera* magazine. Since the early 1970s Fisher has worked almost entirely outside Britain. But opera-lovers in Italy certainly know of him. In 1989 he was appointed artistic director of La Fenice in Venice. He was the first foreigner for as long as anyone can remember to be allowed to run a major Italian opera house — and Italians tend to remember their opera *supremos* rather longer than their prime ministers.

Fisher admits that the appointment "caused a *minor furore*, the Italians being Italian". In fact there were good and bad aspects. The good part was that he suddenly had an annual subsidy of about £14 million to play with, and one of the world's loveliest theatres to spend it in. The bad bit was that the previous administration had perpetrated a classic scorched-earth policy. Fisher found not a single production planned for the following season.

He did have one thing in his favour. As a non-Italian, he could keep clear of the murky political intrigues that poison Italian opera life. "When I was nominated, I expected opposition from every quarter, because I was neither Italian nor aligned to any political faction," he says. "But in a funny sort of way that worked to my advantage: I was unassimilable in political terms. And I did get great support from the Italian artistic community, because they are fed up with the politicisation of the arts. It has become much worse recently.



"In Italy you go into a rehearsal prepared for them not being able to read the notes. In Britain the music is read perfectly the first time": John Fisher on orchestral differences

and led to enormous corruption that is only just coming to the surface."

What of the opera house "reforms" now being robustly debated in Italy? Fisher is sceptical. "Reform is not what I'd call it. They are proposing to make huge cuts, with more resources being channelled into La Scala and Rome, and all the other state theatres, like La Fenice, being relegated to the status of provincial houses."

By all accounts — British and Italian — Fisher turned La Fenice round with remarkable dexterity, and produced a glittering season

this year to celebrate the theatre's bicentenary. "One option was to fill the whole year with works premiered in Venice. I decided to make it almost 50:50. So five of the 11 operas were ones given first performances at La Fenice — *Rigoletto*, *Traviata*, *Italian Girl*, *Semiramide* and Britten's *Turn of the Screw*."

He conducted three productions himself, but what most impressed critics was his skill in picking casts, and produced a glittering season

with established stars cunningly mixed with brilliant young Italians. This gift for talent-spotting is not really surprising. Fisher's whole career up to 1989 had been spent working with singers.

He read psychology at Glasgow University, and did postgraduate keyboard work at the Royal Academy of Music. Soon after, he auditioned successfully to be a répétiteur (vocal coach) at the Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels.

Until 1989 this was the classic way to become a conductor: serve a kind of apprenticeship in half a dozen provincial houses, learn all about the repertoire and how to tame the monster personalities of prima donnas, and then strike out as a music director.

Since the war, however, the tradition has declined. Young conductors are greedy for bright lights and big cheques. But not Fisher. After Brussels he went to Amster-

dam for three years, and did a spell at Cologne. Then he became assistant to Claudio Abbado at La Scala.

He stayed on in Milan as the head of La Scala's music staff,

learning about what makes opera houses gel, or not. Along the way he picked up five languages, and something more valuable still: the secret of conducting. What is it? "Phrase as singers breathe. That is the basis of all music-making."

But perhaps Fisher's real gift is for running opera companies. In Venice, he showed what could be achieved by placing the emphasis firmly on musical values rather than addish production concepts. For some bizarre reason the British rarely put musicians in charge of opera houses. We prefer to give the job to far grander people: television producers, for example. But it would be a pity if, somewhere in British musical life, a place was not found for a man who has amassed such experience in the holy temples of opera.

• *Alcina* opens at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (071-240 1066) on Friday at 7pm.

## CLASSICAL CONCERT REVIEWS: Scandinavian sounds complement the season

### The changing of the avant-garde

**I**n a notable series of concerts last week under the "Tender is the North" umbrella, London's The Place played host to a festival within a festival. By way of drawing our attention to contemporary music in Scandinavia, Kaija Saariaho, the organiser, presented a range of avant-garde composers alongside a handful of established masterpieces, such as Berg's Chamber Concerto, Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time* and Ligeti's Second String Quartet.

On Thursday the ensemble Avanti, directed by Jukka-Pekka Saraste, played the Berg, together with *Minnewater* by the Danish Bent Sørensen and *Tractatus*, by the prominent Norwegian Arne Nordheim.

The former piece, the title of which means "Love lake", is described by the composer as "full of murmuring swells and swarming cascades". *Minnewater*'s muted impressionistic

floating sonorities irresistibly evoke the swirl of waves; the kaleidoscopic effects are subtle and infinitely varied. Nordheim's *Tractatus*, by contrast, has a more metallic flavour, dominated as it is by an incisively piping flute part (excellently played by Ingela Oien). The hard, crystalline sonorities are less suggestive than Sørensen's, but to compensate there is a more dramatic underlying impulse.

Berg's Chamber Concerto ideally combines the elements of sonority and drama, the two being held in perfect balance by Saraste and his able ensemble. Ernst Kovacic and Tuula Hakkila were admirable in the solo violin and piano parts.

On Friday evening, the Arditti String Quartet specialists in avant-garde music, presented a varied programme, beginning with *Tritunabaly* by Per Norgård, the leading figure in Danish music today. The title alludes

to the transformations generated from a single, unified line, rather like the changing tones of a bell. But there is little that is bell-like about Norgård's tough, gritty sonorities, except, perhaps, in its resonant moments of repose.

Even if one did not know that Karlöva Eriksdóttir hailed from Iceland, it might be possible to guess from the icy wastes evoked by her *Six Movements*. Tentative, minimalist (not minimalist) utterances gradually coalesce into quite aggressive gestures, especially in the third movement, where trichotomous whispers evolve effectively into insistent challenges.

Saariaho's own *Nymphæa* again suggests barren, empty spaces, though this inhuman coldness is evidently as much a spiritual void as a physical space. *Nymphæa*, for string quartet and live electronics, traces an arc from the wittering and ghostly wailing

of its beginning, through the heavy breathing and hissing provided by the performers themselves, to the final eerie disappearance into the ether. In all these works, the Arditti exhibited their usual mastery in the face of taxing technical and expressive demands.

Even more breathtaking was the virtuosity of the Swedish Kroumata Percussion Ensemble on Saturday evening. They began modestly, with the characteristically colourful *Raintree* by the Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu, the delicate nuances drawn from vibraphone, marimbas and crotolas (antique cymbals) conjuring up a tranquil sound picture.

In literally striking contrast, the Norwegian composer Rolf Wallin's *Stonewave*, for six percussionists, exploits the power of rhythm. The work takes the form of a series of assaults, subtly varied in timbre and pulse, and culminat-

ing in a thrilling final sortie. The time taken to assemble the massive forces of Mikael Edlund's *Jord* (Earth) exceeded the duration of the piece itself (about a quarter of an hour). It is a theatrical work, in which a central player representing a High Priest is surrounded by the remaining four, each in a corner of the stage. A battery of unconventional instruments includes a sandpaper block and a bowl containing gravel, while the High Priest at one point appears to have an oral relationship with his marimba.

The Swede Sven-David Sandström's *Drums* similarly calls for a central timpanist gradually to dominate the surrounding bongos, tom-toms and bass drums. The piece, brilliantly played by Kroumata, builds to an exhilarating climax of terrifying intensity.

BARRY MILLINGTON

shows a curious similarity to some symphonic writing; and the string playing again gave it purposeful character.

For this listener, however, the evening's revelation was the opening up of the resonant and usually austere sounding Fourth Symphony of 1911 by Davis's fascinating shaping of phrase and structure. A conscious reaction to the theatricality of Mahler and Richard Strauss, the work nevertheless projects a harmonic conflict which is a source of absorbing musical interest, and which conductor and orchestra between them fully communicated within the work's relatively short timespan.

NOEL GOODWIN

### Sibelius in splendour

ed encore. The symphony was certainly brightly and boldly coloured, but it also looked beyond the surface heroics into the heart of the composer's thought process.

The conductor set it going on a swinging pulse and with more extrovert character than he sometimes brings to such music. The phrasing was romantically elegant, the dynamics expansive yet controlled, the shape of the movement strongly defined. A surging declamation continued into

the brass to build a resplendent finale that seemed to be trying to escape the acoustic confines of the platform.

Before this we heard some less familiar Sibelius, beginning with *Rakastava* (The Lover) in its version for strings with a few touches of percussion. It was rewritten in this form nearly 20 years after it was first composed as a setting of poetry for men's chorus. The non-vocal version

projects a harmonic conflict which is a source of absorbing musical interest, and which conductor and orchestra between them fully communicated within the work's relatively short timespan.

NOEL GOODWIN

## ROCK CONCERT REVIEW

### Heavens, he's not miserable now

**W**hen was he ever the Mr Head Prefect, the Mr Steady and Dependable of the Upper Sixth? Recently, though, Morrissey's reputation for truculence and truancy has come to rival that of even the sunniest boy in the school.

Consequently, starting out on what recent legend suggested might be a wasted trip to Sheffield, one wondered whether he would play into the hands of his detractors by storming offstage early in a fit of cod-teenage rebellion. Then, somewhere around Derby, a yet worse scenario suggested itself: he might not even begin the show at all, preferring to sit it out behind the City Hall's bike shed — should there be such a thing —

with just a packet of Woodbines for company.

Certainly the concert ticket gave little grounds for optimism. "Buy one Big Mac, get one free," it said on the back — a poor incentive to attend for pop's most famous vegetarian. Happily, Morrissey didn't take this irony personally, and was not only there to greet his adoring crowd (who, it must be said, appear to be getting younger by the day), but confounded low expectations by actually beginning his performance early with a cocky, almost sneering romp through "You're Gonna Need Some On Your Side". The slam-dancers swooned briefly, then began slamming in earnest.

Rockabilly glamour in hipsters and satin shirt.

The extravagantly be-quiffed star then set about maintaining this momentum through a 90-minute programme of post-Smith highlights. Formal communication with the audience was minimal — a "good evening", a "thank-you", one "so, well" — but them on a good night (as this undoubtedly was), the relationship between Morrissey and his fans has always been one of the closest and most intuitive in pop, and the set's mixture of aggression, self-searching and tenderness was perfectly judged to explore each and every aspect of their mutual fascination.

Within a consistently inspired and inspiring show, highlights were, perhaps, the gloriously melodic "Suedehead" and the darker, less straightforward "November Spawns a Monster", while "Alsatian Cousin" showed again how few peers Morrissey has when it comes to detailing the awfulness and absurdities of sexual jealousy.

And if his own performance gave ample grounds for optimism about his own artistic state of health, the scarcity of Union Jacks greeting his parting "The National Front Doctor" offered similar and very welcome assurances about the interpretative abilities of his ever-loyal audience.

ALAN JACKSON



Reach out and touch: Morrissey gets near his people

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## One-stop advice shops on the way

By DEREK HARRIS

EXPERIMENTAL one-stop shops to make it simpler for small firms to get business advice should be opening by the late spring next year.

The move follows an invitation by Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, for bids that should establish up to 15 of the new-style shops. The bids have to be made by the end of next month.

What is clear is that the winners of the bids will be chosen on quality and not geography. Training and enterprise councils (TECs) will coordinate the bids, but the close involvement of chambers of commerce and local enterprise agencies as well as local authorities and probably local firms is expected.

About £3.5 million is being set aside for the first year's funding, but Mr Heseltine is looking for local contributions to be forthcoming.

There will be further government support available for another two years should the experiment need to run that long before a decision can be made whether to go nationwide with the idea. If that happens, a chain of about 200 around England seems likely.

A broadly based steering group has helped to establish the framework for the pilot one-stop shops and there will be special attention for the needs of established small and medium-sized firms.

Mr Heseltine wants these to have access to "world-class support" in the areas of information, advice, counselling, development of business skills, exporting, technology transfer, innovation, design and other services.

He sees a one-stop shop developing a long-term relationship with a portfolio of local businesses, focused particularly on small companies with growth potential.

Howard Davies, the director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, who was on the steering group, said that the one-stop shops could bring about a real improvement in the quality of support and advice available for small businesses.

Like Mr Heseltine, he lays emphasis on the need for those running the shops to have high skill levels.

## Reindeer link is good for the wallet

By IOLA SMITH

THE willingness of international collectors to pay high prices for top quality products has enabled the English Leather Company, of Hay-on-Wye, Powys, to weather the recession. The biggest secret in the survival has been its reindeer connection.

The firm was founded four years ago by Athene English, a former professional horse rider and saddle maker, with £6,000 of support from the Development Board for Rural Wales. It now supplies individual buyers in Britain, Japan and America with hand-stitched wallets, bags and briefcases that sell for up to £1,400 each.

The high prices are due to the unusual hides — 200-year-old Russian reindeer skins salvaged from the Danish ship, *Catharina von Sliensborg*. It was taking a cargo of the hides from St Petersburg to Genoa when it was sunk in a storm off Cornwall in 1786.

Its cargo lay in shallow water 500 yards offshore until the 1970s, when the skins were discovered on the seabed by the British Sub Aqua Club. As they were found in waters belonging to the Duchy of Cornwall, the hides became the property of the Prince of Wales. However, he waived all rights to them, allowing them to be sold to finance further salvage work on the wreck.

The hides, which had been preserved by the Cornish mud, had originally been tanned in the traditional Russian manner, using willow bark and birch oil. Therefore, after prolonged soaking in fresh water, to remove the mud and sea water, and subsequent treat-



Sitting pretty: Athene English, whose leather company has managed to weather the recession

ment with lanolin and saddle soap, the hides were ready for use. Miss English was one of the few designers invited by the Duchy and the divers to use the hides, and this was the opportunity that propelled her into the international market. She said: "Comparing these skins with ordinary leather is like comparing

a Stradivarius with an ordinary violin and, as a designer, I feel duty bound to do them justice. Therefore, I hand stitch every item, taking about ten days to make one briefcase. My hope is that the products will become much loved family heirlooms, to be passed on from one generation to the next."

Although her business has expanded considerably over the past four years, leading to the employment of outworkers and the opening of a shop, workshop and mail order business in the Wye Valley, Miss English is well aware that there is only a limited supply of her Russian raw material. "I'm not

sure how many hides remain, or how much longer I'll be able to work with them. But in order to safeguard the business for the future, I am also designing a range of shooting and sporting bags, belts and baskets in high quality British leather. One of my aims is to help revitalise the dwindling British leather industry.

"When I trained as a saddlemaker 12 years ago there were 75 tanners in England. Now there are only a handful left. It is a pity, because Britain has a tradition of producing durable, high quality leather." Miss English is preparing a range of designs for a country living display at the Business Design Centre in Islington, London, in March. Next year, she also plans an assault on the continental market.

She also intends to return a small amount of the leather to Russia, in the form of a commemorative reindeer-skin bound book. This will be presented as a thank-you gift to the mayor of St Petersburg.

"Small companies that play safe by providing top quality goods for niche markets find it easier to ride the recession," she said. "Because although our market is intrinsically small, there is always a demand for top quality, and people are prepared to pay for it."

So although the recession is not a problem, copiers are. Miss English has come across imitations of her designs and she is afraid that they could undermine her business. However, both she and her customers can easily recognise that these goods are different from the real thing, for they lack the company's craftsmanship.

### PREPARINGS

From January, the London Enterprise Agency will run its business planning courses on a continuing basis. The courses for budding entrepreneurs, held mainly at weekends, will be modular, with each module repeated every eight to ten weeks. That will reduce waiting time, meeting the needs of the large number of unemployed in greater London, including redundant architects and accountants, who are applying to the agency for start-up training. One module, for art and design graduates, handles aspects such as copyright and how to commercialise their output.

Applicants should contact Amanda Simmons, training projects manager. Telephone 071-236 3000.

□ What makes a small business successful will be investigated in a three-year research project being funded by Lloyds Bank. The Small Business Research Trust will be collecting data from more than 200 businesses, all with an annual turnover of less than £1 million. A special focus will be how recession has affected them. It is hoped that some ideas on how to manage a small enterprise successfully through recession will emerge.

□ National Westminster Bank has launched BusinessLine, a 24-hour telephone banking service for small businesses. It offers basic banking services, plus the location of specific transactions, the last 25 transactions read over the phone, the transfer of funds between accounts and the facility to arrange a month in advance for bills to be paid.

### EDITOR DEREK HARRIS

### YESTERDAY'S BUSINESS



## Getting to grips with the small print of EC regulations

By SALLY WATTS

A SERVICE has started in Newcastle upon Tyne to help building industry companies, especially smaller firms and sole traders, understand the implications of the EC's huge and complex Construction Products Directive.

Written in legal terms, the directive covers health and safety aspects of all building-related products. Businesses that do not comply face severe penalties, including closure or seizure of goods.

What is not generally realised is that the directive applies to trading in Britain as well as in the rest of Europe, and that our present non-mandatory standards system is

being replaced by mandatory EC requirements. Lack of awareness — believed to prevail throughout Britain — was revealed in the north east after research by the built environment department at Northumbria University. Now the university has set up a European Building Centre to provide business support services.

Paul Laycock, who graduated in construction management at Newcastle and had a spell working for John Laing, is the service's project officer. He is sponsored for two years by the DTI and the EC, and will interpret for individual businesses how the directive will affect their company. As a first step, free seminars are being held at

Durham (January 27), Stockton (February 17) and Carlisle (February 25). Delegates can include multinationals, one-man contractors and manufacturers, self-employed architects and engineers. Those outside the region may also arrange to attend by telephoning Mr Laycock on 091 235 8448.

The first seminar, in Gateshead, attracted more than 40 employers. Mr Laycock said: "They were very worried. Their lack of information confirmed my worst fears. With the present state of the industry, businesses have neither the capacity nor the money to investigate for themselves. All members of the industry are affected by the need to meet product harmonisation. The ma-

jority that do follow British Standards — which are quite high — are halfway there and will not have too much trouble meeting EC requirements.

"Getting it right will mean finding out which legislation applies to them, then altering or fine-tuning their method of operation, involving an initial outlay of time and money, and then continually updating their knowledge."

Possible pitfalls include a control system applying to construction product makers. They must show that they have achieved the right quality and are able to maintain it: a requirement on the first importer of goods from outside the Community, to obtain documentation; and the obligation on architects and engineers to specify the correct materials for the correct functions. Mr Laycock added: "The legislation's complexities are such that firms, especially smaller ones, need a hand-holding service."

He plans to organise further seminars and will provide one-to-one consultancy for businesses everywhere. Part of the cost will be borne by the DTI. There will also be free newsletters and use of the library. When businesses achieve EC standards, Mr Laycock will help them to gain accreditation. As he says, this is a good marketing move: it will look impressive on their literature and could increase business.

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## LAW

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# Lawyers swell jobs queue

As more City firms lay off staff, the competition for vacancies is fierce, say David Conn and Frances Gibb

**T**he recession is finally taking its toll of the big City law firms. Macfarlanes is the latest of the well-known names to lay off lawyers (see *Inns and Outs* below), hard on the heels of firms such as Theodore Goddard and McKenna.

*The Lawyer*, the profession's weekly news magazine, recently cited four more City firms that had laid off staff: Denton Hall Burgin & Warrens, Berwin Leighton, D.J. Freeman and McKenna have between them made more than 60 people redundant, ranging from partners to part-timers.

Alistair Dougall, of the recruitment consultants Quarry Dougall, says it is difficult for the newly-qualified. "It is very competitive; some of them are very, very good and there are very few opportunities."

Another recruitment consultant, John Lacey, who runs the London office of the Charles Fellowes Partnership, said: "It is very tough going: in the past you might have five to ten people going for a position; now it is five times that." He said that outside London, in the big regional centres, the market was not quite so tight, and unemployed solicitors were increasingly looking further afield.

Jonathan Macrae, of the recruitment agency, ZMB, estimates there to be 25 property lawyers unemployed for each vacancy. A recently advertised position for a litigation solicitor at Manches, a West End firm, attracted over 500 applicants. The unemployment problem is particularly acute in London. However, "firms in the provinces are batten down the hatches", according to Julian Bown of Recruitment Matters.

Yet agencies detect what they hope is the first sign of a



Hard times: Hitendra Patel, a former company lawyer, now finds himself working on an airline food production line

change in the market, particularly for solicitors who have a few years' experience. Michael Chambers, of the Chambers recruitment agency, says: "I am nervous about predicting that this is an upturn, because we have seen them before and then there has been another dip. But there do seem to be a few more vacancies coming through."

David Goddard is one of the victims of the slump. "When I qualified as a solicitor in 1970, there was simply no question of jobs not being around," he says. He and two other senior property solicitors were made redundant in October 1991. Until this month he had been unable to find paid work of any sort, despite strenuous

efforts and a CV which boasts a 15-year partnership in a small City firm, and high quality work for Herbert Smith. He is now working on a short-term assignment for the London firm, Devonshires.

Mr Goddard, 47, has applied for non-law jobs, such as charity administrator, but was considered insufficiently experienced, while being regarded as over-qualified for many law firms. He speaks of the period as a "sabbatical".

Solicitors still without work, such as those below, can, like Mr Goddard, view their time off as an enforced sabbatical. But in the present economic climate, they do not know how long it will last.

"The longer I am out of work, the more reluctant firms are to take me on," he says. "I decided to ring round firms, offering my services for nothing, just to keep my hand in."

## Ready to work for nothing

He was travelling 40 miles a day to work in a general practice, at his own expense. But he has had to let lapse his practising certificate, which would have cost £570, plus the cost of continuing education.

Mr Patel attended three interviews on the same day recently, in Manchester, Bolton and Blackburn. He found fierce competition from other London-trained lawyers.

## In need of a financial safety net

**RUTH WERBISKI**, aged 43, worked for 21 years before becoming a solicitor, having begun her legal career as a copy typist. In January she, like Mr Patel, was made redundant from Mishcon de Reya, where she had been a senior assistant solicitor.

Married with a five-year-old son, she has heavy financial commitments. In 1975 she bought a house for her 77-year-old mother and disabled brother. Now her husband has to pay the mortgage on that house, as well as their own, from his £20,000 salary.

After four months searching for a job, Mrs Werbiski now works from home as a

sole practitioner. So far she has attracted several clients, but has received minimal fee income to offset her capital expenditure.

"Practising certificate, insurance and office equipment run into thousands, and I cannot charge in advance, except for privately funded litigation. Legally aided litigation only pays a year after the legal aid certificate has been issued," she says.

She is angry, after a lifetime of work, at the lack of an adequate safety net. "I have paid tax every year since 1964. Now we do not have sufficient money to prevent my mother and brother losing their home and being put out on the street."



Home alone: Ruth Werbiski

## Maintaining a positive attitude

**SHEELA MACKINTOSH**, a 28-year-old litigator, has been out of work since April. In 1990, she had been released after articles by her previous employer because the firm had begun to feel the effects of the recession.

However, even then, finding another job was relatively easy and she was taken on by a private client firm in central London. She therefore had few qualms about leaving that firm to make an extended visit to Malaysia, to see her family after an absence of seven years.

In 1992, however, the employment market is very different and, in April, on

her return from Malaysia, Ms Mackintosh found that jobs were few and far between. She was, for example, one of the 500 people who applied for the vacancy at Manches.

She finds that she is increasingly frustrated, stifled by her inability to contribute. "I feel as if my life is in suspended animation," she says. She fundraises for a charity, the Sea Cadets, three days a week, alongside two other unemployed solicitors.

She remains positive about getting a job, "and when I get it I will treasure it", she says.



Charity work: Sheela Mackintosh

## More bad tidings

**HARD** on the heels of Theodore Goddard, Denton Hall Burgin & Warrens, McKenna & Co and Berwin Leighton, Macfarlanes has told a number of staff that they are being made redundant. The firm's managing partner, Roger Formby, denies reports that 15 per cent of the staff are to go. "The percentage of the total firm is nearer 7 per cent or 24 jobs." Six of these are assistant solicitors, some of whom, he says, "are quite senior". The rest are support staff, including seven secretaries.

"There was a lot less work in 1992. We have delayed longer than most and have done what we hope is a one off thing." The firm is not employing outplacement services. "From what we have seen of that, it is not worth it," Mr Formby says.

**Creditworthy**  
BANKS like barristers — that is the news from a survey by

the Bar. The news is particularly good for those suffering long delays in legal aid payments. According to the Bar Council's newsletter, the barbers found barristers to be good credit risks and most were prepared to lend them the equivalent of one third of outstanding fees (rates vary between 2.5 per cent and 5 per cent over base).

### Call for laughter

THE publication of the court's charter has provoked mirth among the beleaguered solicitors who use the recently formed Central London County Court (the product of a merger between Bloomsbury and Westminster). Court users were particularly amused by the photographs of smiling children in a well-equipped crèche, cheerful court staff, "information" signs, high-tech architecture and clean comfortable waiting rooms. All this struck more than one over-stressed lawyer as the

staff of pipe dreams. It will be interesting to see whether Central London, with a backlog of 1,500 complaints, can live up to the charter's various promises, including a 30-second response to telephone calls (by the court's own admission, "bugs in the system"), including the publication of the wrong phone number, have led to "an appalling telephone system for our customers".

### Peril at sea

IF YOU are considering exporting goods to St Petersburg, send them by any method except by sea. At a recent joint meeting of the Association of St Petersburg Lawyers and Eu-Lex, a European network of lawyers, accountants and tax advisers, the delegates discussed the logistics of importing into the region. Goods coming in by sea "often disappear" and the harbour facilities are on the point of collapse, so much so

## JINNS AND OUTS

staff of pipe dreams. It will be interesting to see whether Central London, with a backlog of 1,500 complaints, can live up to the charter's various promises, including a 30-second response to telephone calls (by the court's own admission, "bugs in the system"), including the publication of the wrong phone number, have led to "an appalling telephone system for our customers".

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that the World Bank has had to allocate \$50 million towards emergency improvement. And if your goods do go AWOL, there is no effective criminal code or system of enforcement. However, as professional advisers can set up in St Petersburg without authorisation, there seems to be a golden opportunity for a joint venture between a law firm and a security company.

### Royal role

FOR those who can't face the Queen's message at the end of her *annus horribilis*, there is an alternative in the shape of the three episodes of *Pallas 2*, to be screened by Channel 4, starting on December 21. The comedy programmes are a sequel to last year's *Pallas*, hailed by *The Sun* as "the only thing worth watching on TV this Christmas". Needless to say there is a role for the lawyers: Medwyn Jones, a partner with Cameron Markey Hewitt, is advising the scriptwriters on how to steer clear of defamation. "My task has been made easier by the activities of the royal family themselves, which has lessened the likelihood of defamatory comment."

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# Watching the detectives

Anyone — even a criminal — can be a private eye. Robert Verkaik reports on a grey area in the black and white world of the solicitor

**W**ith the disclosure of Norman Lamont's credit card details, the spotlight has been cast on some of the shadier work of private detectives. Lawyers use them frequently, and may be unwittingly sanctioning law-breaking when they employ private detectives whose activities are still outside any licensing or regulatory control.

Whether it's photographing unfaithful spouses or processing hostile defendants, private detectives working for solicitors currently operate in a legal twilight zone.

Peter Heims, spokesman for the Association of Private Investigators (API) and a private detective since 1953, says: "Some private detectives do break the law, it would be naive to think otherwise. Illegitimate phone-tapping, bribery and theft does go on."

In other instances their behaviour may be more unscrupulous than illegal. Recently, solicitors acting for an insurance company instructed an investigator in a personal injury case," Mr Heims says. "He managed to get photographs of the plaintiff blowing up a flat car tire, despite the fact that the plaintiff said he was unable to bend his back."

"However, at trial, clever cross-examination revealed that the investigator had let the tire down in the first place. The judge was so infuriated the plaintiff won the case."

Efforts to curb the excesses of some private detectives crystallised in the cross-party private Security Registration Bill which failed to win a second reading last week in the Commons. During its first reading last July, the bill, introduced by Bruce George, the Labour MP for Walsall

South, set out a statutory licensing authority that would license and regulate private detectives. But the government, which is opposed to the bill, sees self-regulation as the way forward. Mr George says: "Self-regulation is a contradiction in terms. There have been cases of illegality in obtaining information, and private detectives snatching kids in matrimonial disputes. It's these shady operations that need to be regulated, for the good of the profession."

**'Some do break the law, it would be naive to think otherwise'**

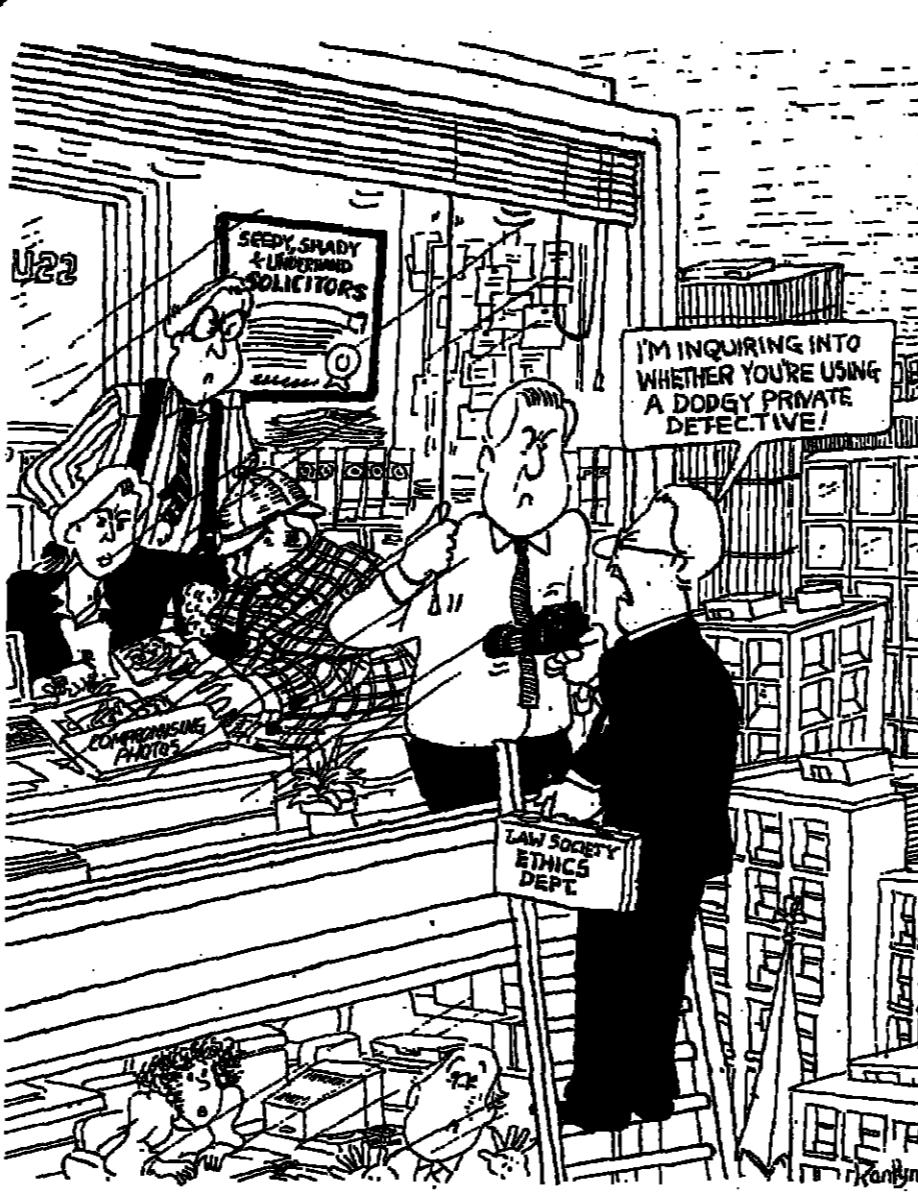
The life of the private eye is still open to anyone, including criminals. Those private detectives who flagrammly break the law present solicitors, who provide 60 per cent of their business, with an ethical problem.

Christopher Bramall, head of the Law Society's ethics department, says that in clearing part one of the Solicitors' Practice Rules should be invoked: "A solicitor must not do anything or allow anything to be done in his name that will damage his name or that of the profession."

On most occasions the private investigator is keen to do a professional and legal job, but will be unaware that he has fallen foul of the law. This creates a more perplexing dilemma for the solicitor.

"There are some grey areas," Mr Bramall says. "The wide scope of the Official Secrets Act means that an investigator illegally gathering information from government sources will more often than not be unaware that he has committed an offence. This information may then be passed on to the solicitor, who may be completely oblivious to its significance."

The same problem arises out of other technical breaches



of the law. For example, the current practice of taking documents and other evidence from people's rubbish bins means that a solicitor who takes control of the stolen property could be guilty of handling.

**I**n these cases, turning a blind eye will not save the solicitor from prosecution. In such a situation solicitors should turn to the Law Society for help. Bronwyn Still, head of the society's guidance department, says: "Solicitors who suspect they are in receipt of improperly obtained information will usually clear their ethical position with us before

doing something that might put them in the soup."

Perhaps pitfalls would be avoided if solicitors knew with whom they were dealing. However, the Law Society does not keep a blacklist of shady detectives: it is left up to the individual solicitors to choose who to instruct.

"I would put private detectives on the same level as other experts, such as doctors and surveyors, whom the solicitor may instruct," Mr Bramall says. "Regulation is a matter for the government, not the Law Society."

The API strongly supports Mr George's bill and a statutory licensing scheme. "There are some bad apples in the

private investigator's barrel but there are one or two bad apple solicitors as well," Mr Heims says.

Stephen Gilchrist, a partner with Hart Forgang and a legal consultant to Magnum Investigator International, also backs a licensing scheme, and believes private detectives are "very much under-used."

"A lot of private investigators provide a high-tech, professional service," he says. "And at the sharp end of the criminal justice system, where personal liberties are at stake, their work can be invaluable.

If there was more consistency in legal aid funding then their services would be taken up more frequently."

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# When is a couple not a couple?

The status of unmarried partners wanting to adopt is highlighted in the biggest review of the law in years

Council officials in Manchester have prompted a predictable outcry by recommending that a homosexual couple from Cheshire should be allowed to adopt a child. Ironically, the move comes just as the government is carrying out a full-scale review of adoption law, the first for two decades. But while homosexual couples may be allowed to adopt, the review fails to accept that unmarried heterosexual couples who adopt may have joint legal responsibility.

Tim Yeo, the health junior minister, allowed just two months — to the end of this year — for public reaction to the report of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Adoption.

The first tranche of recommendations involve the harmonising of adoption law with the 1989 Children Act. Adoption agencies and courts should have to give paramount consideration to the child's welfare, and to remember that the latter is likely to be prejudiced by delay.

Similarly, there would be a presumption that it would be better for the child if no order were made at all, and if her or his "wishes and feelings", among other things, would have to be considered.

Conventional stuff. But the report is at its most controversial where it recommends no change, in particular on the rights of unmarried couples to adopt.

Recently, public — or at least press — interest in adoption has focused on the legal eligibility and the personal suitability of adopters. On legal eligibility, the working group approves the existing principle in the Adoption Act 1976 that an order may only be made in favour of a married couple or a single person.

Reasons given for continuing to deny joint legal responsibility to an unmarried couple include: their lack of legal obligation to each other, the possibility that

their extended families might be unwilling to accept the child; the likelihood that marriage signifies a more secure relationship; and — the report's sign of relief at last coming up with a good one is almost audible here — that Article 6 (1) of the European Adoption Convention 1992 prohibits such adoptions.

Surely what matters is not the lack of legal responsibility to each other, but the child of their, however non-marital, family — a responsibility

An adoption order may only be made in favour of a married couple or a single person

which they can only both owe if the law allows them both to adopt. As the report acknowledges, some agencies assess and prepare unmarried couples together, even though only one partner may become the legal parent.

If this practice is to continue, it cannot be right for the child to have a two-parent social family but a single-parent legal one. And one notes the group's acceptance of homosexual adopters partnered or not. Why are single homosexual adopters eligible but not heterosexual couples?

The refusal to lay down guidelines for the personal suitability of applicants is equally misguided. The practice is for agencies to operate, for example, their own upper age limits in relation to those who want to adopt, not to put too fine a point on it. Healthy white babies. These limits vary from the early to the late thirties. The agencies are,

CHRISS BARTON

The author is a principal lecturer in law at Staffordshire University.

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# Driving ambition moves down from father to son



Graham Hill: charismatic

WHAT an act to have to follow. As Damon Hill prepares for his advance into the mainstream of Formula One motor racing, he will doubtless be mindful of the charisma that surrounded his late father. For Graham Hill's fame came not just from his two world championships and 14 individual grand prix victories, but also from his public performances and, at times, antics out of the car.

The Graham Hill the public saw was the tall and handsome sportsman with the Guards officer moustache, the brilliant after-dinner speaker with a sense of timing that would have done justice to a comedian, and a man with great compassion for the underprivileged and tireless in his involvement in charity.

Whereas his contemporary and great rival, Jim Clark, shrank in horror from any microphone, Graham Hill seemed to be born to it. He was a natural showman and the public loved him for it.

Yet behind this public persona was a quite different man. He was a grifter with a fearlessly grim determination to succeed against the odds. Who could forget his unique triple of the Formula One world titles, and victory at both Le Mans and the Indianapolis 500? He graduated to Formula One at the same time as Clark, the natural genius, which made his racing life that much tougher.

Hill had to work for his achievements like few other world champions. Although luck played a part in his first world title, in 1962, he

must have been grifted that it was he, rather than the Scot, Clark, who became champion after that nail-biting final race in South Africa, where Hill won for BRM after Clark's Lotus had retired from the lead.

Hill's second world title, in 1968, saw him at his very best. The previous year he and Clark had become team partners at Lotus, but Clark's death in a Formula Two race at Hockenheim in April 1968 so shattered Colin Chapman that he came close to disbanding his team. Hill immediately stepped in to lead by

example, not only winning the next two grands prix in Spain and Monaco, but helping to restore the team's sense of purpose through his strength of character.

That inner-strength served him well to the day he died when his plane crashed in November 1975 while he was returning from a test session in France, but at times it could become overpowering. He was intolerant, not of mediocrity, which he could forgive, but of anything less than a 100 per cent effort from those around him.

The bristling moustache provided the warning light of the mood

of the moment, and one grew accustomed to checking with care before engaging him in small talk. His devoted wife, Bette, managed it to perfection. Her unwavering support served him well, just as in recent years she has been Damon's most enthusiastic supporter as he has climbed the racing ladder.

Damon Hill has inherited some, but not all, of his father's qualities. Graham would have been proud that his son has secured the second Williams seat the hard way — by doing a brilliant job as a test driver (an activity that Graham always enjoyed) and then having to grit his teeth while others prevaricated. Damon's close rapport with his team's technical staff, which clearly influenced the decision, is another inherited trait.

It may well emerge that he is even quicker than his father was in his heyday, but if he has only half of Graham's tenacity, he will be well served. Graham Hill's refusal to admit defeat was one of his strongest cards and Damon's climb to the top has been characterised by a similar determination that augurs well.

Only time will tell whether his prowess with the microphone will match his father's, but perhaps it will be as well if it does not. Damon Hill will succeed by being his own man, but it is appropriate, when congratulating him on an achievement well earned, to remember the man who, with every justification, became tagged the ambassador of motor racing: Graham Hill.

## Flanker pays heavily for lack of stature

# Back draws short straw as England look to the future

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND gave an indication yesterday of the way forward when they named a 30-strong squad for warm weather training in Lanzarote next month. However, their future seems not to include Neil Back, the Leicester flanker, whose physique counts against him more than ever, given the nature of the game England expect to play. England have perennially specialised in small open-side flankers, but Peter Winterbottom may be the last of the bottom.

"The way the game is going is changing," Geoff Cooke, the team manager, said at Twickenham. "We are looking slightly differently at the traditional image of the open side in this country. Back was one of the outstanding players on England's B tour of New Zealand last summer but, at 5ft 10in, is deemed too small.

Cooke emphasised that the Leicester player was not ruled out of contention for full international honours, but, at the same time, he stressed that

bigger men, allied to speed and handling ability, had to make more of a dynamic imprint on the modern game.

Thus Steve Ojomoh, who is not playing regularly in Bath's back row this season, goes to Lanzarote as a potential open-side rather than a blind side or No. 8, where he has played most of his senior rugby.

"We have great regard for the ability of people like Back and Andy Robinson," Cooke said. "Back does some things better than any other player in the country, but we have to ask whether that works against the world's best."

"I think Back could play for England in several games and do very well. We are not discarding him, but we are looking at a different way forward. It is very hard on him. He can't change his size. He plays right to the edge of his game and it is unfortunate for him, the way we are viewing it at the moment," Cooke added.

"It is becoming harder for the good little 'un to survive at

the highest level. Pace, power and precision are the key words. But the lineout is still an integral feature, so we will always need big men there," — hence, again, the preference for Ojomoh, who offers further lineout presence, an ability which could threaten Robinson's place in Bath's back row next season.

England leave for Lanzarote on December 31 and return on January 5, having named their team to play France at Twickenham on January 16 of the Sunday of their extended weekend. They intend to select from within the 30, although they will keep in mind two players unable to travel because of work commitments — Dean Richards and Nigel Heslop — both internationals.

The young crop includes Paul Challinor, the Harlequins stand-off, described by Cooke as "on a learning curve"; Chris Clark, the promising Swansea prop, and Darren O'Leary, the Saracens wing.

The latter two have enjoyed good divisional championships this month, but have also been seen at student and under-21 representative level; indeed, both were included last week in the England Students development weekend between January 1 and 3 but will now have to forgo the less exotic delights of Bisham Abbey.

It had been hoped to take a third scrum half, a position where England lack genuine depth, and a fifth prop, in view of the heavy senior and A team programme in the new year.

The date of the final coincides with the Welsh Rugby Union cup final and the Middlesex sevens at Twickenham.

The Alloa Cup competition attracted 58 entrants from league divisions one to five but it still cannot tempt the Border clubs, whose support of the

Alloa Cup is increasing to £22,500 with Balfour Scottish Whisky, who became one of the RFU's seven elite sponsoring companies.

## Junior clubs add weight to experimental laws

ANSWERS to a Rugby Football Union (RFU) survey indicate that junior clubs in England endorse the experimental laws relating to the ruck, maul and lineout (David Hands writes).

A questionnaire has been sent to a cross-section of clubs below national division three, which will form part of the RFU's detailed response to the International Rugby Football Board on the laws, which are for this season only.

"They find the ball is released more quickly and that seems to suit them," Don Rutherford, the RFU technical director, said. "There is a major difference in the style of game played the lower down you go. Higher up the more forwards and backs get mixed up. That is one of the problems the lawmen have. It may be you need different

laws for different levels of play."

The international board hopes to announce at the annual meeting in April uniform laws for under-19 games — a uniformity which has eluded the senior game, because of different interpretations not only between hemispheres but between, for example, France and England.

The Rugby Football Union has agreed a three-year sponsorship worth £500,000 with Balfour Scottish Whisky, who became one of the RFU's seven elite sponsoring companies.

BECAUSE of the heavy Christmas mail, three sets of forecasts are included in *The Times* pools guide today. Collectors from Littlewoods and Zetters will this week require the coupons of December 19, December 26 and January 2, while

Vernon collectors will want the coupons of December 26 and January 2. Postal clients are advised to send their coupons extra early.

You may be baffled by the absence of teams on the January 2 coupon. This is because it had to be printed

before the draw for the FA Cup third round was made. The draw now having been completed, we publish the list of teams today with their corresponding pools numbers.

Two of the best treble chance selections this week can be found in

### Answers from page 36

#### CROQUIS

(b) German for, literally, a rock-sea, an expanse of angular free-drifting rocks which may develop on flat terrains in arctic and alpine climates, a boulder field: "It is common to find at high altitudes accumulations of river rocks known as *feisenkreise*. These boulder fields attest to the rapidity of the weathering processes at high altitudes."

#### FEISENKREISE

(b) German for, literally, a rock-sea, an expanse of angular free-drifting rocks which may develop on flat terrains in arctic and alpine climates, a boulder field: "It is common to find at high altitudes accumulations of river rocks known as *feisenkreise*. These boulder fields attest to the rapidity of the weathering processes at high altitudes."

#### ALIPHATIC

(b) Fatty, the epithet of organic compounds having an open-chain structure, from the Greek *eleiphein*, to smear, fat: "The saturated alcohols yielding the saturated monosaccharide fatty acids, or acids of the aliphatic series, as they are termed."

#### FATIMA

(a) The short first name of the Koran, used by Moslems as a prayer, from the Arabic *fatiha*, an opening: 1821: "Some one of Makki's men cries out 'The Fatima' (or the first chapter of the Koran), every one joining in that prayer." "We sometimes meet people on our road, who invariably on parting recited the *Fatima*."

#### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

The white knight leaps and forks everything with 1 Nf6! Now: If 1... Nch7 2 Rch7 mate. If 1... Rg7? 2 Rg7# Kxg7 3 Qh7# followed by 4 Qg8# and 5 Nxd7. If 1... Rg7? 2 Rg7# followed by 3 Qxh7# and 4 Nxd7.

Saturday December 19 unless stated

**Premier League**  
1 Bradford v Middlesbrough

2 Blackpool v Shetland

2 Coventry v Liverpool

2 Doncaster v Birmingham

2 Grimsby v Aston Villa

2 Hartlepool v Nottingham Forest

2 Middlesbrough v Newcastle

2 Middlesbrough v Nottingham Forest

2 Middlesbrough v Shrewsbury Town

2 Middlesbrough v Southampton

2 Middlesbrough v West Ham

2 Middlesbrough v Wigan

2 Middlesbrough v Wrexham

2 Middlesbrough v York

2 Middlesbrough v Zulte Waregem

# Impressive Cab On Target stands by for Ascot switch

By PHIL MCLENNAN

SOUTHERN racegoers could have their first chance to see rising northern star Cab On Target running over fences on a mouth-watering programme at Ascot on Saturday.

Mary Reaveley has entered her exciting prospect for the grade two Rovacavil Noel Novices' Chase and may switch the six-year-old from Kempton on Boxing Day.

After beating Dusty Miller ten lengths at Doncaster on Saturday, the Saltburn trainer pencilled in the grade one Tripleprint Feltman Novices' Chase at the Sunbury track as his next objective.

"I'm a bit worried about the prospect of three miles on soft ground at Kempton," Reaveley said. "He's come out of last Saturday's race very well and I hope he will go to Newmarket and Luton would be at Ascot to ride Burygoone anyway," Reaveley added. "They could ride Cab On Target again."

## Salman elected to Jockey Club

By DICK HINDREY

PRINCE Fahd Salman, a leading Flat owner, was yesterday elected an honorary member of the Jockey Club.

Salman, the owner of last year's dual Derby and King George winner Generous, has had a long involvement in British racing and achieved more than 50 winners for the first time this year.

Last week, at the Gimcrack speech, he spoke out on the poor state of affairs at British racetracks.

He also advocated a European Breeders' Cup, to be held in the summer, based on the same lines as the highly successful American version in the autumn.

Anthony Mildmay-White was appointed a steward and takes over as chairman of the disciplinary committee from Sir Piers Bengough on January 1.

Four new members of the Jockey Club are Ivan Straker, Mark Davies, William Whittle and Kirsten Rausing.



Whittle chairman of Haydock Park

we'll see how he works in the week before we make a definite decision."

Only ten have been entered for the grade two Ascot race and Cab On Target's most serious rival on paper would be Dawson City, who may stay in the north for the £23,000 grade one Northumberland and Francois Doumen's True Brave.

Doumen has taken Uello II out of the day's feature race, the SGB Chase, but with the other joint top-weight, Cool Ground, a probable starter, the weights would not rise, leaving eight of the 13 acceptors, including the fancied trio of Gambling Royal, County Member and Parsons Green, out of the handicap.

A surprise acceptor is Pipe's Rehearsal Chase disappointment Minnehoma, who had been expected to go for the

Burygoone heads the ten acceptors for the Youngmans Long Walk Hurdle where he is likely to renew Newbury rivalry with Tyrone Bridge.

Other probable runners are Muse, conqueror of Morley Street last time, the Irish-trained Smul Ar Aghaidh and Francois Doumen's True Brave.

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A surprise acceptor is Pipe's Rehearsal Chase disappointment Minnehoma, who had been expected to go for the

King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day. Ladbrokes, Hills and Corals have decided not to open a book until Saturday.

The progressive Baydon Star heads the nine acceptors for the HSS Hire Shops Hurdle where Flown, ten-length conqueror of Halkupps at Cheltenham in March, is among his rivals.

Halkupps was backed from 7-1 to 6-1 for the Champion Hurdle with Ladbrokes yesterday at which price he shares favouritism with Baydon Star's stable companion, Mighty Mogul.

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## Buddington to collect again in Folkestone stamina test

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

BUDDINGTON has a fine chance of winning today's Heathfield Handicap Chase at Folkestone where he will relish the prevailing soft ground.

Trained at Letcombe Bassett by Tim Forster, Buddington is said by his experienced handler to be a horse who is genuinely soft ground.

The seven-year-old had those conditions at Uttoxeter last spring when he won a third behind Esha Ness and Boraceva at Wincanton in his only race this season, is also trained at Upper Lambourn by Oliver Sherwood. However his stable has been under a cloud of late and until it shows a return to form, a switching plan is advisable.

On that occasion, Buddington responded well to an excellent ride from Forster's jockey, Rodney Farrant.

His 5lb allowance could well prove the crucial factor today in the closing stages of this long-distance contest as Buddington carries only 10st 10lb.

Top weight is carried by Bonsai Bud whose recent victories at Kempton and Warwick have signalled a return to form of his trainer, David Murray-Smith's Upper Lambourn yard.

Last time out, Bonsai Bud gave Rio Haina 5lb and a two-and-a-half-length beating over

today's distance of three-and-a-quarter miles.

Since Rio Haina is also trained by Forster, it is highly significant that he has not been deterred from taking Bonsai Bud on again.

Stately Lover, who finished third behind Esha Ness and Boraceva at Wincanton in his only race this season, is also trained at Upper Lambourn by Oliver Sherwood. However his stable has been under a cloud of late and until it shows a return to form, a switching plan is advisable.

Likewise, we still need to know whether the soft surface operation carried out on Richard Rowe's useful seven-year-old Mole Tidy has been a success.

Spruce, who was beaten 12lb by Very Ordinary at Worcester last time, and Gladogenet, who was runner-up to Le Chat Noir on today's track last time out, are both capable of winning a race of this nature.

But at today's weights, I much prefer Buddington, who is my nap.

Early Man, who won by five lengths on his seasonal debut at the last meeting on the East Kent course, should go well again in the Dover National Hunt Novices Hurdle.

But I prefer Croft Mill, who has a soft-ground pedigree as he is by Furry Glen out of a mare by Ballymore.

After winning well at Windsor, Croft Mill looked unlucky not to prevail again at Nottingham where a stumble on landing over the last hurdle appeared to cost him the race.

Red Jack and Boogie Bopper, the two winners in the field for the Stamford Novices' Hurdle, have only won sellers.

In the circumstances, it may well pay to consider some of the recruits from the Flat, most notably Thinking Twice, who won on the track in March for Peter Harris, and Second Call, successful in soft ground at Wolverhampton and Cheltenham for Henry Candy.

Sold for 13,000 and 18,000 guineas respectively, they are now trained by Nicky Henderson and Guy Harwood. Second Call is my choice this time.

At Southwell, Jolite (1.30) and Island Blade (3.00), both successful on the Fibresand track, are taken to win again.

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

### Redskins perk up in the nick of time

By ROBERT KIRLEY

THE Washington Redskins, moribund a few weeks ago, beat the Dallas Cowboys, one of the hottest teams in the National Football League, 20-17 on Sunday, as the only club to secure play-off positions did so off the field.

Washington's victory involved a critical call when Troy Aikman, of Dallas, apparently trying to pass, lost the ball in the end zone. The play was ruled fumble instead of an incomplete pass and yielded the winning score when Dan Copeland recovered.

The Buffalo Bills earned their fifth successive play-off appearance when the Cleveland Browns were upset by the Detroit Lions. The Pittsburgh Steelers also lost, but they became the first club to clinch a division title when the Green Bay Packers defeated the Houston Oilers 16-14.

The Cowboys and the Minnesota Vikings squandered chances to win their divisions. The San Francisco 49ers, New Orleans Saints, San Diego Chargers, Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles advanced towards post-season competition, Philadelphia doing so by avoiding what would have been the first tie in three seasons.

RESULTS: Week 16: Atlanta 35, Tampa Bay 10; Denver 21, Cincinnati 14; Indianapolis 10, NY Jets 6; Kansas City 27, New England 13; Chicago 20, New Orleans 17; San Francisco 20, Detroit 17; Cleveland 14, New York 17; LA Rams 14; Philadelphia 20, Seattle 17 (OT); Washington 20, Dallas 17; Green Bay 18; Houston 20.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East division

• Buffalo Bills 10, 4-5, 355, 240

• Miami Dolphins 10, 4-5, 344

• Indianapolis Colts 7, 7, 178, 272

• New York Jets 4, 10, 203, 276

• New England Patriots 2, 12, 13, 327

• Pittsburgh Steelers 10, 4, 273, 209

• Houston Oilers 8, 7, 245, 225

• Cleveland Browns 8, 4, 10, 265, 233

• Cincinnati Bengals 4, 10, 237, 333

• West division

• Dallas Cowboys 11, 3, 341, 212

• New Orleans Saints 11, 11, 284, 182

• Atlanta Falcons 8, 8, 265, 213

• Denver Broncos 7, 7, 223, 281

• Los Angeles Rams 5, 7, 205, 205

• Seattle Seahawks 2, 12, 120, 271

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East division

• Dallas Cowboys 11, 3, 341, 212

• Philadelphia Eagles 9, 5, 317, 222

• New York Giants 5, 6, 261, 283

• Phoenix Cardinals 4, 10, 227, 309

• Central division

• Minnesota Vikings 9, 5, 341, 227

• Green Bay Packers 9, 5, 241, 256

• Chicago Bears 5, 9, 265, 218

• Tampa Bay Buccaneers 4, 10, 251, 281

• Detroit Lions 10, 10, 251, 305

• West division

• San Francisco 49ers 12, 2, 385, 216

• New Orleans Saints 11, 11, 284, 182

• Arizona Cardinals 8, 8, 265, 213

• Los Angeles Rams 5, 7, 205, 205

• Seattle Seahawks 2, 12, 120, 271

• Does not include last night's game: LA Raiders at Miami.

• Includes divisional position.

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Aston Villa try medical experiment

# Oxygen treatment is used to hasten Atkinson's recovery

By DENNIS SHAW

DALIAN Atkinson has been acting as a guinea pig for an experimental method of treating injuries in an attempt to return to the Aston Villa team for tonight's Coca-Cola Cup replay against Ipswich, one of his former clubs, at Portman Road.

Villa are ready to invest £25,000 in the "recovery machine", which Atkinson has been testing for the past two days, if it proves a success.

The Hyperbaric Therapy Unit is a depressurised cabin resembling a bubble-car. Atkinson, Villa's leading scorer, has been inside it, breathing pure oxygen, hoping to speed his recovery from the stomach strain which kept him out of last Saturday's 2-1 home victory over Nottingham Forest.

"If Dalian does make it in time, part of his recovery will be down to the unit," Ron Atkinson, the Villa manager, said. "It's expensive, but if it does the job I'll buy it myself if I have to."

The manager's namesake

has spent four one-hour sessions in the unit and is now given a realistic chance of returning to the attack.

"The basic principle is that pure oxygen gets into the blood and thus speeds up the healing process," Jim Walker, Villa's physiotherapist, said.

"It is not claimed to be a miracle-machine. But what it can do is quicken the recovery process."

Atkinson, who has 13 goals this season, made one for his forward partner, Dean Saunders, and scored the other when the teams drew 2-2 at Villa Park a fortnight ago. He described the treatment as "a bit like being in an aeroplane. My ears have been popping and it feels like I have water in them. But my injury has certainly felt better since I have been in there."

Since joining Villa from the Spanish club, Real Sociedad, for a then club-record £1.6 million last season, Atkinson has made a habit of scoring against his former clubs. In

four games against Sheffield Wednesday and Ipswich he has found the net five times, including the only goal in Villa's 1-1 draw at Portman Road on the opening day of the season.

Graham Taylor, the England manager, saw his two splendidly taken goals at Hillsborough ten days ago, which are believed to have elevated him towards international recognition. "If he continues to play as well as he has done for us, and there is still more to come, I am sure he will earn the chance of some sort of international call," Ron Atkinson said.

Villa were frustrated by a close-marking, well-organised defence at Villa Park, when Ipswich demonstrated why they are such accomplished draw specialists.

They were also stunned by two goals from Chris Kiwomya, a close friend of Atkinson from his days at Portman Road. Kiwomya, who had influenza, missed Saturday's 3-1 success over Manchester City, a game in which Ipswich came from a goal down to preserve their unbeaten home record, but is expected to return tonight, as is midfield player Chris Williams, who has been troubled by a thigh strain.

Kiwomya's return will probably mean that the Bulgarian international, Bontcho Ganchev, who made his debut on Saturday, will revert to a place on the substitutes' bench.

Villa are expecting Ipswich to play a more open, attacking game on their own ground, a strategy which they believe could work in their favour.

A victory for Villa would give them a crowded home programme at the turn of the year with three successive home games in different competitions in nine days.

Arsenal (Premier League, December 28), Bristol Rovers (FA Cup, January 2) and Sheffield Wednesday (Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final, January 6).

promised that he would make changes — possibly sweeping changes — for tomorrow night's Coca-Cola League Cup fourth round replay against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

Kendall described as "unacceptable" his team's performance in the 1-0 defeat by Sheffield United at Bramall Lane. "The players are letting themselves down and are letting down everyone else connected with the club," he said.

"If they are only going to produce their best in the glamour games and don't pick up on the importance of matches against the Wimbletons and Sheffield United of this world, they will find that they will not be considered when the big games come around."

It is to make an official approach to Wimbleton for Robbie Earle, the midfield player who cost the London club £75,000 from Port Vale in July 1991. Although Dalglish is willing to offer around £1.5 million, Wimbleton's valuation of the player is thought to exceed £2 million.

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## BBC1

6.00 Ceefax (59660) 6.30 Breakfast News (40970202)  
 9.05 Kilroy (285476) 9.45 Ross King with Joe McGann (s) (983970)  
 10.00 News and weather (3678776) 10.05 Playdays (r) (s) (9284009)  
 10.30 Good Morning ... with Anne and Nick, including at 11.00, 12.00  
 News, regional news and weather (48737844) 12.15 Pebble Mill  
 1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. (Ceefax) (98738)  
 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (2102784)  
 1.50 Going for Gold. Henry Kelly hosts the Euro-quiz (s) (21021660)  
 2.15 Film: Outcast of the Islands (1951, b/w). A brave stabb at Joseph Conrad's novel about a trade in the Far East. Starring Trevor Howard. Directed by Carol Reed (512641)  
 3.50 Children's BBC: Harum Scarum. Picture stories (s) (6816841)  
 4.00 Funnybones. Skeletal adventure (s) (7184554) 4.05  
 Spacecats. Science-fiction comedy (s) (2081028) 4.20 The Chipmunks (r) (2075221) 4.35 Antics. Old comics and a new children's museum. (Ceefax) (s) (5897309) 5.00 Newsround (2576399) 5.10 Byker Grove. (Ceefax) (9282825)  
 5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (813263). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster  
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Saxon and Anna Ford. (Ceefax) (4986)  
 6.30 Regional news magazines (738). Northern Ireland: Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s)  
 7.00 Teletubbies. Noёl Edmonds hosts the final of the television triva quiz between the Paynes and the Wilsons (s) (1931)  
 7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (950)  
 8.00 Citizen Smith. Wolfe and Ken squat in their pad. Starring Robert Lindsay and Mike Grady (r). (Ceefax) (778)  
 8.30 A Question of Sport. David Coleman hosts the sports quiz with team captains Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham. (Ceefax) (6486)  
 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Marilyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and Weather (1912)  
 9.30 Specially Selected Cannon Carron. Jaeger Carroll in the first of two compilations from her Cannon Carron series (r). (Ceefax) (425202). Wales: Week in Week Out. 10.00 Cannon Carron  
 10.15 Omnibus: King's College Choir  
 CHOICE: The peg for Jill Evans's film is an obviously seasonal one, though the Christmas eve festival of nine lessons and carols only started in 1918 and is a small part of the choir's life. Comprising boys from the college school and King's undergraduates, the choir exists primarily to sing evensong. It also gives tours and concerts, prompting the criticism that it has become closer to show business than worship. But the film is a portrait rather than a polemic, observing a characteristically British institution in which the weight of tradition (King's was founded 550 years ago) is yielding only slowly to the march of the 20th century. The boy trebles still wear top hats in the streets of Cambridge and effeminate hangs contemporary at composers such as Judith Weir (831009). Wales: 10.45 Omnibus



Unlikely buddies: Jon Voight, Dustin Hoffman (11.05pm)  
 11.05 Film: Midnight Cowboy (1969)  
 CHOICE: With *Midnight Cowboy*, British director John Schlesinger started his American career with critical and commercial triumph and picked up an Oscar into the bargain. Yet the film often succeeds in spite of Schlesinger, whose calculated attempt at "style" add an unnecessary gloss to a story strong enough without them. Even so, *Midnight Cowboy* is an impressively disenchanted view of the American dream, sustained by Waldo Salt's funny-sardonic script and superb central performances. Jon Voight is Joe Buck, a baby-faced hunk from Texas, who wears cowboy gear and goes hustling in the Big Apple. Dustin Hoffman is Ratso, a tubercular con-man who first tries to trick Joe and then becomes his unlikely buddy. Their turbulent, touching relationship is one of the cinema's most memorable double acts. (Ceefax) (s) (679467). Northern Ireland: Study Ireland: 11.25-1.15am Film: *Midnight Cowboy*. Wales: 11.35-2.35am Film: *Midnight Cowboy* 12.55am Weather (541935). Ends at 1.00  
 2.15 BBC Select: Executive Business Club (55697). Ends at 2.45

## VARIATIONS

## ANGLIA

As London except: 6.10pm-5.40 Blockbusters (705414) 6.25-7.00 Angle News (577573) 7.30-8.00 Food Guide (318)

## BORDER

As London except: 3.20pm-5.40 Sons and Daughters (385408) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (705841) 6.00-7.00 Lookaround (554) 9.00-10.00 The Big Breakfast (705841) 11.00-12.00 Hotel Traveller (318) 11.45 International Flight Night (416134) 12.35pm Film: Branigan (528518) 2.40, Cinema Attractions (771971) 3.10-3.30 Minutes (5407259) 4.00 Night Beat (58429) 5.00-5.30 About Britain (19332)

## CENTRAL

As London except: 1.15pm A County Practice (494270) 1.45-2.15 Home and Away (847111) 2.45-3.10 An Invitation to Rememb'r (111) 3.45-4.15 Sons and Daughters (554) 4.30-5.00 Blockbusters (134) 5.20-6.00 Just for Laughs (318) 11.40-12.30am

## HTV WEST

As London except: 1.45pm-2.15 The Young Doctors (847111) 3.20-4.50 A County Practice (554) 4.50-5.20 Sons and Daughters (554) 5.20-5.50 About Britain (19332)

## HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales at Six 7.30-8.00 Jimmy's

## TSW

As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Blockbusters (705414) 6.00 TSW Today (554) 6.30-7.00 Home and Away (1317) 8.00-8.30 News (565520) 9.00-9.30 Entertainment (554) 10.30-11.00 Film: Branigan (212893) 2.35 Firm: Branigan (212893) 2.35 Film: Attractions (822206) 3.10-6.00 Minutes (5472269) 4.00 Night Beat (58429) 5.00-5.30 About Britain (19332)

## GRANADA

As London except: 1.15pm A County

Practice (494270) 1.45-2.15 Home and Away (847111) 2.45-3.10 An Invitation to Rememb'r (111) 3.45-4.15 Sons and Daughters (554) 4.30-5.00 Blockbusters (134) 5.20-6.00 Just for Laughs (318) 11.40-12.30am Family (554) 5.20-7.00 Grandee Tonight (134) 7.30-7.45 Flying Star (318) 11.40-12.30am Film: Branigan (212893) 2.35 Firm: Branigan (212893) 2.35 Film: Attractions (822206) 3.10-6.00 Minutes (5472269) 4.00 Night Beat (58429) 5.00-5.30 About Britain (19332)

## RADIO 3

6.55am Weather  
 7.00 AM Radio Andrew Lyle with  
 9.00 Composers of the Week:  
 Vivaldi: The Square and  
 Beethoven: St Mark. Martin  
 Jarvis reads extracts from the  
 journal of Edward Wright's visit  
 to the Americas in 1580;  
 Counterpoint: Trio Sonata  
 in D, RV620 Variations on "La  
 Folia"; (RV63); The English  
 Concert Choir and English  
 Conductor Trevor Pinnock with  
 Ingrid Atton and Nancy  
 Arges; (s) (2102784) and  
 Catherine Denley, contralto (r)  
 10.00 Brahms and his Critics:  
 Brahms (Theresa, Du  
 mulchinger Knabe, Op 86 No  
 1; Margaret Price, soprano;  
 James Lockhart, piano); Wolf  
 Lieder: Grindelwald, Krabat; Alte  
 Weisen; Sinfonia (Academic  
 Festival Overture); Wagner  
 (Forest Murmurs, Siegmund);  
 Tchaikovsky: Elegy for  
 Strings; Wolf: How beglückt  
 in deiner Liebe, Goethe  
 Lieder; Brahms: Wiegenlied;  
 Lied: Op 43 No 12; Duets;  
 Vivaldi: Adagio and  
 Rondo on a theme of Rameau;  
 Brahms: Capriccio in D minor;  
 Op 116 No 7; British  
 Serenade for tenor, horn and  
 strings; Brahms (piano Trio No  
 2 in C, Op 67)  
 12.00 An Ancient Song: Sister  
 Marie Keyrouz performs the  
 chants of Lebanese Christian  
 communities and Dalmatian  
 Melodic songs at medieval  
 secular music of Byzantium (r)  
 1.00pm News  
 1.05 BBC Scottish SO under  
 Takao Yuasa performs Dvořák  
 (Slavic Dances, Op 46 Nos  
 2 and 3, Symphony No 8 in E  
 minor, From the New World)  
 2.00 Breaking the Ice. A  
 Celebration of Icelandic  
 Culture: Ice and the Paragon  
 Ensemble, Paul P. Palmer  
 (Gamelan Ensemble); Askell  
 Masson (Piano); Helmar H  
 Regnarsen (Preludes Nos 1,  
 4 and 5); Jones, Tomasson  
 (Melodia); All Hail;  
 Svarsson (Fantasia Rondet);  
 Jon Nordan (Duo); Palmer  
 (Gamelan Ensemble); Askell  
 Masson (Sonata for marimba);  
 Kepela Eriksdóttir (Rhapsody  
 in C)

12.30-12.35am News

COMPILED BY GILLIAN MAXEY AND HEATHER ALSTON  
 TELEVISION CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALL

## BBC2

8.00 Breakfast News (5190812)  
 8.15 Westminster: Parliamentary update (5296399)  
 9.00 Film: A Woman's Secret (1948, b/w). Dark melodrama in which Maureen O'Hara confesses to the murder of radio singer Grahame, until mutual friend Mervyn Douglas tells the true story to the police. Directed by Nicholas Ray (6197467)  
 10.20 Film: Scarlet Street (1945, b/w). Masterly film noir starring Edward G. Robinson as a hen-pecked husband who is drawn into a web of deceit and murder when he meets prostitute Joan Bennett. Directed by Fritz Lang (51389825)  
 12.05 Magic of the House. Frank Delaney visits children's writer Lucy M. Boston at home in her Norman manor house on the banks of the River Ouse in Huntingdon (r) (6220352)  
 12.20 The Royal Institute Christmas Lecture. In the second of five lectures on evolution, Dr Richard Dawkins considers the complexity of nature, such as a bird's wing and an eye (r) (s) (2906573)  
 1.20 Film: Scarface (1932, b/w). Masterly film noir starring Edward G. Robinson as a hen-pecked husband who is drawn into a web of deceit and murder when he meets prostitute Joan Bennett. Directed by Fritz Lang (51389825)  
 1.25 Another War, Another Peace: A Different East. Magnus Magnusson charts the emergence of communism in China and capitalism in Japan (3738859)  
 2.00 News and weather (89155573) followed by See Hear. The magazine for the deaf and hard-of-hearing looks at communication and story-telling (r) (s) (7121221)  
 3.00 News and Weather (7659370) followed by Westminster Live including prime minister's questions (8013252) 3.50 News, regional news and weather (8816233)  
 4.00 Catchword. Word game hosted by Paul Coia (s) (979)  
 4.20 Behind the Headlines. Analysis with John Diamond (s) (863)  
 5.00 Pinhook. An RSPB film about a pair of pink-footed geese searching for nesting sites in Iceland (6009)  
 5.30 Film: '92 with Barry Norman. Includes reviews of Sir Richard Attenborough's Chaplin, and *The Muppet Christmas Carol* starring Michael Caine as Scrooge (r) (s) (115)  
 6.00 Film: The Spanish Miss (1945). Superb swashbuckler starring Paul Henreid as a wrongly imprisoned Dutch sea captain who refreshes himself as the pirate Barracuda to wreak vengeance on his Spanish captor. With Maureen O'Hara and Walter Slezak. Directed by Frank Borzage (70441134)



Power behind the president? Hillary Clinton talks (7.40pm)

7.40 Assignment: First Ladies. Margaret Jay talks to Betty Ford, Barbara Bush and Hillary Clinton about the changing role of the American president's wife (s) (33825)  
 8.25 Prisoners of Conscience. The barrister Michael Mansfield talks on behalf of a person jailed for political beliefs (150467)  
 8.30 Food and Drink. Sandi Toksvig and Patrick Barlow compete in a festive culinary quiz; Brian Turner and Michael Barry create party snacks; Jill Goolden and Oz Clarke select white wines to drink with turkey. Presented by Chris Kelly (s) (4028)  
 9.00 Quantum Leap: A Hunting We Will Go. Offbeat American travel series. Starring Scott Bakula. (Ceefax) (s) (304844)  
 9.50 Troubleshooter 2: Neither Fish nor Fowl. Sir John Harvey-Jones applies his business acumen to a struggling group of Bradford hospitals, granted royal trust status. (Ceefax) (970760)  
 10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman (343554)  
 11.20 Self: Exposure: Current Events. In the second of five programmes, the Jewish-American director Ralph Arlyck explores how people can respond with more compassion to news of foreign disasters (511028)  
 12.20am Behind the Headlines (as 4.30pm) (s) (8613239)  
 12.50am Weather (3879149). Ends at 1.00  
 2.15 BBC Select: Executive Business Club (55697). Ends at 2.45

TVS  
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away (705841) 6.00-7.00 Lookaround (554) 7.30-8.00 Hotel Traveller (318) 11.45-12.30am Family (554) 5.20-7.00 Grandee Tonight (134) 7.30-7.45 Flying Star (318) 11.40-12.30am Film: Branigan (212893) 2.35 Firm: Branigan (212893) 2.35 Film: Attractions (822206) 3.10-6.00 Minutes (5472269) 4.00 Night Beat (58429) 5.00-5.30 About Britain (19332)

TYNE TEES  
 As London except: 1.45pm-2.15 Gardens  
 Without Borders (847111) 2.10-2.45 Home and Away (705841) 6.00-7.00 Lookaround (554) 7.30-8.00 Hotel Traveller (318) 11.45-12.30am Family (554) 5.20-7.00 Blockbusters (134) 7.30-8.00 News Watch (318)

HTV WEST  
 As London except: 1.45pm-2.15 The Young Doctors (847111) 3.20-4.50 A County Practice (554) 4.50-5.20 Sons and Daughters (554) 5.20-5.50 About Britain (19332)

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YORKSHIRE  
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HTV WEST  
 As London except: 1.45pm-2.15 The Young

## RACING 33

CAB ON TARGET  
CONSIDERED FOR  
ASCOT OPTION

## SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 15 1992

## FOOTBALL 34

ATKINSON UNDER  
PRESSURE TO  
MAKE FAST RECOVERY

Family Formula One tradition continued as world champion team announces its No. 2 driver

# Williams sign Hill to take Mansell's place

BY SIMON BARNES

WILLIAMS, the world champion motor racing team, brought weeks of rumour and speculation to an end yesterday by announcing that Damon Hill, the son of the late Graham Hill, would replace Nigel Mansell, the world champion driver, in their line-up next year.

When Hill takes the wheel for the South African grand prix on February 23, he will be continuing a rich family tradition. Graham Hill was perhaps the last truly dashing driver in Formula One.

It is too much to say that Williams have the world drivers' championship in their gift. Other teams may be making extraordinary strides in the closed season. Williams may be in the middle of some tremendous mix-up. However, neither possibility is something to bet the mortgage on.

More relevant to Hill's chances, probably, is the fact

that Williams have already appointed Alain Prost to drive next year. Prost is a three times world champion, and winner of 44 grand prix races, more than anyone else in history.

Mansell drove for the Williams team last year, and won the world drivers' championship. Now he has retired from Formula One, and is to compete in Indy Car racing next season. Hill is taking over one of the hottest seats in racing and he has two hard acts to follow: Mansell, and his own father, Graham. Another hard man to follow is Prost — that is, if Hill chooses to do much following. Presumably his principal job will be to protect Prost's back, even if nobody will put it quite like that.

Hill was finally convinced the Williams team that he was the best man for the job after a brilliant testing session in Portugal last week. In fact, he was quicker than Prost, which could be a pointer to trouble ahead.

Hill was quick to minimise this suggestion. "Prost is not the sort of driver who slings it at the scenery. It was only his third test in the car. He is learning about both the team and the car," he said.

Hill comes over as both charming and modest, something that will make him stand out in the world of Formula One. He is not brash, and, at 30, he is certainly not young. "I've not been in Formula One — or even in motor racing all my life," he said. "I've lived in the real world as well. Been a dispatch rider and a labourer."

In fact, Hill's Formula One

experience comes down to the grand total of two races both last year. He was driving a Brabham; some will tell you it was a wonder that Hill was able to qualify, let alone finish both times. He was sixteenth and eleventh.

"I understand why people will see this as a controversial choice," he said. "It is a very brave decision from the Williams team, in the face of it. But I know motor racing, if

not Formula One — and I know this car very well."

Hill has been test driver for Williams for two years. In one fell swoop, the understudy has been made a star. "He is the ideal candidate," Frank Williams, head of the Williams team, said. "He is very, very fast. He understands grand prix cars. His job is not to mash the cars and to get on the podium as often as possible."

Hill is going in with his eyes wide open. "Motor racing is different to any other sport," he said. "The only driver you are really competing with is your teammate. Your team always wants the drivers to work in harmony, but all drivers are competitive people or they wouldn't be racing drivers."

"The expectation is that Prost will do the bulk of the winning and that's a reasonable assumption. Just two weeks ago, all I wanted was to get this drive. Now all I want to do is not be shown up as completely inadequate." The implication is clear. Expectations change, and Hill expects his expectations to change for the season — and he —

is proud to be in a competitive car in Formula One. I feel fulfilled, to some degree."

Prost is chasing old times as a former champion. Hill is breaking new ground — but he is also, as the son of his father, bringing back the past.

□ The future of Formula One racing could be decided at a Heathrow airport hotel on January 14 when Bernie Ecclestone calls together the team directors.

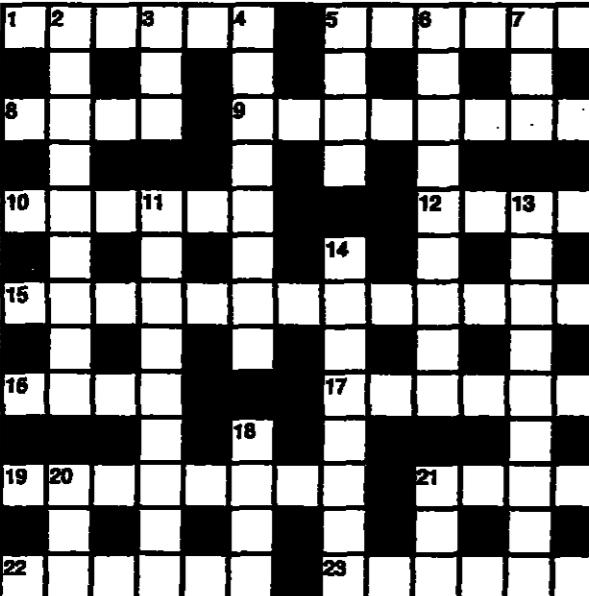
Ecclestone, a vice-president of Fisa, the sport's governing body, and head of the constructors' association, Foca, is concerned at the prospect of another Williams-dominated season producing a boring spectacle. The idea of a weight handicap, to give other teams a better chance, failed to find majority support and a pace car is being considered.

Graham Hill profile, page 32



Hot seat: Damon Hill, the son of the late Graham Hill, gets behind the wheel of a Williams at Didcot yesterday after being announced as their second driver for 1993

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2971



**ACROSS**  
1 Sneaked off work (6)  
5 Medical course (6)  
8 Give off (4)  
9 Yiddish bravado (8)  
10 Ski obstacle course (6)  
12 Kind (4)  
15 Irascible (5,8)  
16 Hideous (4)  
17 Sudden (6)  
19 Block (8)  
21 Joke (4)  
22 Trapped (6)  
23 Reserved (6)  
  
**DOWNS**  
1 Hook of Holland (6)  
2 Guilder (6)  
3 Lancers (4)  
4 Na-  
5 Fossa (5)  
6 Irish (5)  
7 George Lazebny (8)  
8 Onion (3)  
9 Bushido (8)  
10 1800 (3,2,4)  
11 Oldie (5)  
12 Bear hug (4)  
13 Haniss (5)  
14 Consul (5)  
15 All (3)  
16 20 Logical (5)  
17 Offence (5)  
18 Skillet (5)  
19 Slated (5)  
20 Gifts (5)  
21 Climb (5)  
22 24 Ave (5)  
23 Afflic (5)  
  
**SOLUTIONS TO NO 2970**  
**ACROSS:** 1 Highland fling, 8 Onion, 9 Bushido, 10 1800 (3,2,4), 11 Oldie, 12 Bear hug, 14 Haniss, 16 Consul, 20 Logical, 23 Offence, 24 Ave, 25 Afflic.  
**DOWNS:** 1 Hook of Holland, 2 Guilder, 3 Lancers, 4 Na-, 5 Fossa, 6 Irish, 7 George Lazebny, 8 Onion, 9 Bushido, 10 1800 (3,2,4), 11 Oldie, 12 Bear hug, 14 Haniss, 15 All, 17 Offence, 18 Skillet, 19 Slated, 20 Gifts, 21 Climb.

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent  
This position is from the game Kosten — McDonald, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Challengers 1987/88. Tony Kosten finished clear first in the challengers tournament of 1987/88 gaining the right to play in the following year's premier. This victory helped him on his way. Can you spot white's immediate knock-out blow? This year's Hastings tournament features the Hungarian prodigies Judit

Solution on page 32.

**CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS:** For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software with help levels, (runs on most PCs), call Akom Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hrs) or CDS on 0302 890000 - STOP PRESS! Just released - the First Book of The Times Jumbo Concise Crosswords - ring Akom. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

By PHILIP HOWARD

**CROQUIS**  
a. Swiss baked potato with Gruyère  
b. A rough sketch  
c. A symic at Croquet  
**FELSENMEER**  
a. A coarse Amsterdam felt  
b. A boulder field  
c. A padded jerkin for fencing/

Answers on page 32

**ALPHATIC**

a. Prophetic  
b. Fatty  
c. A language without labels

**FATIHA**

a. A Moslem prayer  
b. The Ottoman queen mother  
c. An Iroquois name for a fish

## FA to consider video evidence before taking Wright decision

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IAN Wright, Arsenal's leading scorer, will learn by the end of the week the price he must pay for his latest misdemeanour. The Football Association is to announce its verdict

years of the official, Alf

Bulsh.

Howells, to his credit, did not respond to the unacceptable provocation. Had he done so, the festering bitterness might have exploded temporarily into more widespread violence and Wright might also have received more than a lecture from Bulsh, who had consulted his linesman.

Wright, who started the year by being fined £1,500 for allegedly spitting at an Oldham Athletic supporter, could end it by being suspended. If the FA takes action, as is probable, the sentence promulgated to be for two or three games, the same as if he had been sent off during the game.

One precedent, set by another Arsenal player four years ago, is thought to be irrelevant. Paul Davis was banned for nine games and fined £3,000, but his act, a left hook which fractured the jaw of Glenn Cockerill in a match against Southampton, was considered overtly cynical. Davis struck when the ball was some distance away and when he knew the referee's attention had been diverted elsewhere. Wright, over-reacting to a tackle considerably less forceful than others which littered the spiffy north London derby, retaliated within a few

yards of the official, Alf

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Wright, who started the year by being fined £1,500 for allegedly spitting at an Oldham Athletic supporter, could end it by being suspended.

If the FA takes action, as is probable, the sentence promulgated to be for two or three games, the same as if he had been sent off during the game.

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